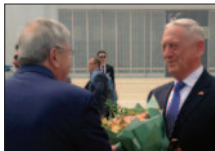


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MORE TIME ON THE RANGE

Army extending infantry course to strengthen ground force

By JOHN VANDIVER ■ Stars and Stripes

The Army will add two more months to infantry school, marking the biggest change to the institution in nearly a half-century in a move the service says is designed to develop a more lethal force.

In July, the Army will extend its one-station unit training from 14 to 22 weeks in a pilot program so new recruits will get more weapons and combat training, Col. Townley R. Hedrick, the commandant of the Army Infantry School, told the Army's internal news service Monday.

Between July and October of 2019 the expanded course will be introduced throughout the infantry school, the Army said.

The decision to reform the Army's training of infantry soldiers came after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis emphasized the need for a more combat-ready ground force.

SEE INFANTRY ON PAGE 5



A soldier-in-training conducts basic rifle marksmanship training at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2017.

PATRICK A. ALBRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

If NATO clashes with Russia, US may stall in traffic

By MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

SUWALKI, Poland — U.S. commanders are worried that if they had to head off a conflict with Russia, the most powerful military in the world could get stuck in a traffic jam.

ANALYSIS

Humvees could snarl behind plodding semis on narrow roads as they made their way east across Europe. U.S. tanks could crush rusting bridges too weak to hold their weight. Troops could be held up by officious

passport-checkers and stubborn railway companies.

Although many barriers would drop away if there were a declaration of war, the hazy period before a military engagement would present a major problem. NATO has just a skeleton force deployed to its member countries that share a border with Russia. Backup forces would need to traverse hundreds of miles. And the delays—a mixture of bureaucracy, bad planning and decaying infrastructure—could enable Russia to seize NATO territory in the Baltics while U.S. Army planners were still filling out

the 17 forms needed to cross Germany and into Poland.

During at least one White House exercise that gamed out a European war with Russia, the logistical stumbles contributed to a NATO loss.

That possibility is tangible for troops who have gotten stuck trying to move between training exercises in Europe—like the U.S. Army squadron that budgeted two weeks last year to get their Stryker armored vehicles back by train to Germany from the Black Sea nation of Georgia. It took four months, leaving the troops sitting

in Germany without their rides or weaponry, said Lt. Col. Adam Lackey, the commander of the squadron.

"We have to be able to move as fast or faster than Russia in order to be an effective deterrent," said Ben Hodges, the U.S. Army's former top general in Europe.

Since retiring in December, Hodges has devoted himself to raising the alarm from his perch at the Washington-based Center for European Policy Analysis, and he has successfully pushed to get troop mobility issues on the agenda of a NATO summit in

SEE NATO ON PAGE 6

PACIFIC

Mattis in China for 1st visit by DOD chief in 4 years

Bloomberg

Jim Mattis arrived Tuesday in Beijing on the first China visit by a U.S. defense secretary in four years as the Trump administration moves to push back against the country's growing economic and military influence.

Mattis, who plans to also visit South Korea and Japan, was expected to press China's leaders for continued cooperation on North Korea's nuclear program despite simmering tensions between the world's two largest economies over everything from trade to Taiwan. Before departing for Asia on Sunday, Mattis said he intended to "have a conversation."

"I want to go in right now without basically poisoning the well at this point," Mattis told reporters. "I want to go in and do a lot of listening."

The Associated Press said Mattis arrived Tuesday afternoon.

The trip comes at a fraught diplomatic moment as President Donald Trump prepares to enact tariffs and investment restrictions to curb what the White House says is China's "economic aggression." At the same time, security disputes have been accumulating between the two sides, with the Defense Department branding China a "strategic competitor" and rescinding the country's participation in annual international military exercises that begin this week near Hawaii.

Still, Trump needs Chinese President Xi Jinping's help to keep North Korea engaged with disarmament talks. Xi hosted Kim Jong Un in Beijing last week — the North Korean leader's third China trip since March — in a demonstration of China's enduring sway as the country's top trading partner and wartime ally.

Ahead of Mattis' visit, China's state-run media said dialogue was required to ensure that disputes don't become flashpoints.

"Although it is natural for big countries such as China and the U.S. to have areas of competition, the two should have of friendship and the political will to control their



LOLITA BALDON/AP

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, center, is greeted as he arrives at Beijing Capital International Airport in China on Tuesday.

rivalry so that the worst-case scenario of a full-blown confrontation between them can be avoided," the English language China Daily newspaper said in an editorial Monday.

Since Xi hosted Mattis' predecessor, Chuck Hagel, in 2014, China has launched a second aircraft carrier and outlined plans to build a "world-class" military power by 2050. The Trump administration, meanwhile, has replaced former President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia" with an "Indo-Pacific" policy that looks to draw India into the regional security framework as a counterweight to China.

Oh Ei Sun, senior adviser for international affairs at the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute in Kuala Lumpur, said China was looking for Mattis' guidance on the Trump administration defense and foreign policy objectives. "The

U.S.' strategic position vis-a-vis China, and indeed the major parts of the world, is undergoing a major paradigm shift at the moment — from that of a global policeman to a more trade-focused posture," Oh said.

'I want to go in and do a lot of listening.'

Jim Mattis
secretary of defense

to brief Chinese leaders on the visit in the days after the meeting.

While China has pledged to play a "constructive" role in talks, the country has also urged the United Nations Security

Council to revisit sanctions on Kim's regime to facilitate negotiations. Trump has also suggested that his attempts to pressure China on trade might make it less cooperative in his "maximum pressure" campaign against North Korea.

The defense secretary was expected to leave for Seoul on Thursday, where he would likely encounter questions about Trump's decision to halt joint military drills with South Korea. He'll then head to Japan, the U.S.' closest ally in the region, before heading back to Washington.

Mattis was also likely to address U.S. concerns about China's latest moves to assert control over the disputed South China Sea, including the deployment of military aircraft and missile batteries. Speaking at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore earlier this month, Mattis said such actions were causing the U.S. to reconsider its "cooperative stance" toward China and warned that Beijing risked "larger consequences" in the long term.

The Defense Department faces mounting pressure from U.S. lawmakers to increase military support for the democratically run island of Taiwan, which China considers a province. The Pentagon has also protested what it says are cases of U.S. pilots being injured by lasers, a claim that has been denied by China's Foreign Ministry.

"China-U.S. military exchanges are important to bilateral relations and have made continuous progress," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular news briefing Tuesday in Beijing. "China and the U.S. will exchange opinions on bilateral and military relations."

Graham Webster, a senior fellow with Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center, said a key question was whether Trump's tariff actions would lead Beijing to link economic issues and security cooperation. "If they do, I think it is a sign that U.S.-China relations are going to be in for a much more comprehensive set of bumps," Webster said.

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MILITARY

Berlin Airlift hailed at anniversary event

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — Diplomats, politicians and military leaders gathered at Frankfurt airport Tuesday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift — a mission lauded as the greatest peacetime aerial supply mission in history.

On June 24, 1948, the Soviet Union, in one of the opening moves of the Cold War, blockaded all rail, road and water access to West Berlin to force the Western Allies out of the city. Two days later, the Berlin Airlift began with cargo planes flying out of Rhein-Main Air Base and other bases in western Germany to supply West Berlin's citizens with food and other necessities until the Soviets lifted the blockade 11 months later.

Dignitaries gathered at the Berlin Airlift Museum included Richard Grenell and Anne-Marie Descotes, the U.S. and French ambassadors to Germany; Robbie Bulloch, the deputy head of mission of the British Embassy; Volker Bouffier, the minister president of the German state of Hesse; and Maj. Gen. John B. Williams, the mobilization assistant to the commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa.

The USAFE band provided music for the guests, including '40s-era jazz and the national anthems of the U.S., U.K., Germany and France.

Special guests at the ceremony included the daughters of famed airlift "Candy Bomber" Gail Halvorsen, Denise Halvorsen Williams and Marilyn Halvorsen Sorensen.

Although Halvorsen, known for dropping candy with miniature parachutes from his plane to the children of Berlin, was not present because of his health, he was mentioned by all of the speakers. They all also spoke of the sacrifices of the pilots and crews.

Maj. Gen. Williams said that by the time the airlift ended in 1949, crews had flown roughly the distance from the Earth to the sun in some of the most challenging weather. They had delivered 2.3 million tons of supplies to the 2.5 million citizens of West Berlin.

"It foreshadowed the many humanitarian operations that the respective nations have participated in in the past 70 years," he said.

Bouffier called the airlift "a victory of freedom over dictatorship."

Grenell spoke of Germany's plans to increase defense spending, noting that "the U.S. wants to see a strong Europe, a more pressed Europe and therefore a stronger transatlantic relationship. That's what we all want, and that's what we are all celebrating here today."

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Volker Bouffier, the minister president of the German state of Hesse, speaks at the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift at the Berlin Airlift Memorial at Frankfurt airport on Tuesday.



Above: Maj. Gen. John B. Williams speaks at the ceremony.

Left: The Ambassadors, a jazz group from the USAFE band, performs for visitors before the start of the event.

US seen as backing away from Syria de-escalation enforcement

By MATTHEW LEE
AND JOSE LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration appears to be walking away from a pledge to enforce an arrangement to stabilize southwestern Syria as the Syrian military presses ahead with an offensive in the rebel-held area despite repeated U.S. warnings.

The offensive violates an agreement among the U.S., Russia and neighboring Jordan, whose monarch met with Presi-

dent Donald Trump on Monday. The nearly year-old agreement is intended to preserve the status quo in Syria's southwest, but recent public and private statements suggest the U.S. commitment is slipping.

Although the administration has been consistent in criticizing Russia for backing Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces' advance into the "de-escalation zone" in the province of Daraa, over the past two weeks U.S. officials in Washington and in the Middle East have steadily walked back warnings of American retaliation for violations.

As the situation became more critical Monday, threatening an influx of refugees fleeing the fighting into Jordan, Amman announced it would not take in the newly displaced.

Trump has made no secret of his desire to extricate the United States from Syria.

When Trump met Monday with Jordanian King Abdullah II in Washington, the White House said, the president "expressed concerns" about the pro-Assad operations in southwest Syria but gave no indication they would trigger a U.S. response.

In brief comments to reporters, Trump

said only that a "lot of progress" had been made in the Middle East, but he did not identify specific areas of improvement.

Earlier Monday, the State Department said the situation in southwest Syria remained a matter of serious concern although it pointedly did not repeat earlier threats of a U.S. response that had been standard in such comments since May.

The quiet backtrack has occurred over the course of the last month as what started as allusions to a potential U.S. military response evolved into mere expressions of concern.

PACIFIC

Hopes raised for families of US troops missing in N. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Air Force pilot 2nd Lt. Jimmy Louis Escalante was making his second pass to strafe a convoy of camouflaged trucks in North Korea when he disappeared from radio contact on June 19, 1953.

It was just over a month before an armistice was signed to end the Korean War.

A search crew spotted the smoking wreckage of what was presumed to be his F-86 Sabre fighter jet but no sign of the 23-year-old pilot — one of thousands of American servicemen who remain unaccounted for.

His nephew and namesake, Jim Escalante, and other MIA families are hoping that North Korea's promise to return remains of Americans who were lost on their territory will finally bring their loved ones home.

"I was elated when I heard North Korea was going to repatriate remains," said Escalante, 58, a substitute teacher in Bakersfield, Calif. "It is a positive step in the right direction."

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed during their June 12 summit in Singapore to "recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified."

It would be the first such repatriation in more than a decade after a joint search effort was brought to a halt amid rising tensions over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The U.S.-led United Nations Command is on standby for the handover and sent wooden coffins and flags to the truce village in the tense border that divides the peninsula.

"They have staged appropriate logistics materials, and we simply are standing by for whenever the ... diplomatic activities are done. And we're optimistic that it will begin because there was an agreement coming out of ... Singapore," Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters Sunday en route to Asia.

Mattis, who also will travel to China, South Korea and Japan, said the UNC would oversee the repatriation because of the multilateral nature of the war, with about 15 countries sending troops.

Identification issues

Two weeks after the summit, no date has been set for the repatriation, despite Trump's assertion Thursday that "they've already started to start the process of sending back the remains of our great heroes who died in North Korea during the war."

It's also unclear exactly where the handover would occur, although the military has prepared for it to be at Panmunjom since it straddles the border.

"We are very hopeful and I cer-

S. Korea also searches for its missing troops

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — While attention is focused on North Korea's promise to return the remains of American troops believed lost in the 1950-53 war, South Korea is quietly engaged in an ongoing effort to locate war dead on its side of the border.

The search for about 124,000 South Koreans who remain missing in action has been complicated by a late start and the rapid industrialization of the Asian powerhouse.

Some 10,000 sets of remains have been unearthed since the recovery project started in 2000, but only 128 have been identified, according to the Ministry of National Defense's Killed in Action Recovery and Identification unit, known as MAKRI.

The unit also has found 14 American remains and plans to return the final set to the U.S. military in a repatriation ceremony next month, a MAKRI official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in exchange for providing the details.

The issue has come to the fore since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed during his June 12 summit with President Donald Trump to commit to returning the remains of Americans lost in his country.

South Korean President

Moon Jae-in also has said he hopes to use the burgeoning goodwill with the North to send teams to retrieve remains from the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula.

The MAKRI official estimated that the remains of about 10,000 South Korean soldiers and roughly 2,000 Americans may be buried in the DMZ, a 2.5-mile wide no man's land dotted with land mines and lined with barbed wire.

South Koreans had to prioritize survival and reconstruction as they faced severe economic hardships after the war, which devastated Seoul and other areas. New challenges emerged as the South experienced rapid industrialization and urban sprawl that endangered potential recovery sites.

Interest in excavating remains surged in 2000 when the South marked the 50th anniversary of the start of the war, leading to the formation of MAKRI.

The official said the identification of remains has proven particularly challenging because many survivors who could have contributed DNA have died. The agency has launched a campaign aimed at persuading people to donate samples.

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tainly know the Korea families are very hopeful," Rear Adm. Jim Kreitz, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency deputy director, said in an interview weeks before the summit.

"We hope that they'll turn over some remains and, if things progress, we are ready to hold talks with them to negotiate resumption of operations in North Korea," Kreitz told Stars and Stripes in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

More than 36,000 U.S. troops died in the war, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula divided by the Demilitarized Zone, a 2.5-mile wide no man's land dotted with land mines and lined with barbed wire.

From 1990 to 1994, North Korea returned 208 boxes of remains that contain an estimated 400 individuals, but only 181 Americans have been accounted for from those sets, according to the DPAA.

Joint U.S.-North Korean military search teams recovered 229

sets of American remains between 1996 and 2005, with only 153 individuals identified among those, the agency says.

The United States was allowed to conduct 33 investigative and recovery operations in the country before former President George W. Bush's administration called off the search, claiming the safety of American participants was not guaranteed.

The last repatriation was in 2007 when then-Nev. Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson traveled to Pyongyang and returned with six sets of remains.

Mattis said that if they're turned over at the border the remains would be taken to Osan Air Base south of Seoul where they would undergo an initial examination "just to make sure that they're probably from either western countries or other countries that were sending states."

They would then be sent to the DPAA's laboratory in Hawaii for forensics testing and identifica-



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

North Korean soldiers carry a casket containing remains of a U.S. servicemember killed during the Korean War toward U.N. Command soldiers at Panmunjom, South Korea, in 1958. North Korea has promised to return additional remains of missing U.S. troops.

Information about POW/MIAs

Each military department maintains a service casualty office with liaisons to work with families on personnel recovery and accounting issues. Phone numbers and addresses for each service casualty office can be found on the DPAA website at <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information/>.

Family members may also send inquiries to DPAA about the agency's efforts to account for missing Americans from past conflicts dating to World War II with contact information at <http://www.dpaa.mil/Contact/Contact-Us/>.

tion, a daunting task that can take months and often years.

The effort is complicated by the decades that have lapsed, the death of close relatives who could contribute DNA and the condition of the remains, which are sometimes mixed together. Techniques used include skeletal analyses, sampling DNA, dental and chest radiograph comparisons, and historical evidence.

Final mission

Escalante, who was deployed to South Korea's Suwon Air Base with the 36th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, known as the "Flying Fiends," was determined to fly as many missions as possible, according to an account provided by his nephew.

The pace picked up in the weeks before the truce was signed on July 27 as the Chinese, who were fighting as allies of the North, made a push to gain as much territory as possible beforehand. "After dark you could see the

tracers. It looked like a Fourth of July in the late evening," Escalante wrote in a June 16 letter to his younger brother Bob.

Three days later, the F-86 Sabre pilot disappeared while making a run against the convoy of trucks.

Escalante is listed by the DPAA as a first lieutenant because he was later promoted for length of service since he remained on active duty even while listed as MIA.

His nephew said his effort to find and spread information about his uncle began at age 8 when he found some old photographs.

"I also wanted to know about the Korean War so I could understand the environment in which he fought and eventually gave his life," he said. "I didn't want him to be forgotten, as the Korean War itself has been called over the years."

Stars and Stripes correspondent Jennifer H. Swan contributed to this report.
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MILITARY



PATRICK A. ALBRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A soldier-in-training engages the opposing force during training at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2017.

Infantry: Army says longer training will help troops maneuver as a squad

FROM FRONT PAGE

Soldiers will train more with their M4 rifle, the M240 machine gun and the M249 squad automatic weapon, Hedrick said in a statement.

“So across all the infantry weapons, they will get more bullets,” he said. “And they will also shoot more at night, rather than just doing a day familiarization fire.”

For 44 years, infantry school has been a 14-week program that dedicates 10 weeks to basic mili-

tary training and four weeks to developing special infantry skills. Under the new program, soldiers will receive more field training experience to help them understand how to better maneuver as a squad and conduct day and nighttime operations, the Army said.

An individual day and night land navigation course has been added, which is expected to improve the “mental and physical toughness of soldiers,” Hedrick said.

Also, vehicle training has been

extended from one day to a full week to ensure troops can handle their designated combat vehicle, whether it’s a Stryker or a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

More intensive specialty school training could also soon be on the way for the Army’s armor and engineer schools, which are conducting internal reviews on how to expand initial training, the Army said.

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Passenger in Germany auto crash dies

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The family member of a U.S. soldier was pronounced dead Monday after a highway accident in Bavaria over the weekend in which the car driven by the soldier crashed into a truck, Army officials said Tuesday.

Alonzo Gavia, 24, died at 4 p.m. Monday, after which Gavia’s next-of-kin was notified, Army officials said.

The soldier, 27, who is assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment and stationed in Hohenfels, remains hospitalized after the Saturday morning accident near Neumarkt-Ost and Velburg.

The Army has not released the identity of the soldier.

An investigation by German and American authorities is underway to determine the cause of the accident, Army officials said.

The soldier and family member were in a Toyota Corolla traveling about 110 mph on a stretch of the German autobahn when they crashed into the back of a long truck, police said. The highway has no speed limit.

The truck dragged the car more than 200 yards before stopping on the side of the road.

The soldier and family member were cut out of the vehicle and

taken by helicopter to hospitals in Erlangen and Regensburg.

The 40-year-old truck driver had a dashcam running when the accident occurred, which confirmed that the driver remained in his lane at the time, local police said.

Blood samples were taken to see if alcohol was consumed, but the results are not yet available, police said.

Protesters use boats, canoes in rally against new Okinawa runway

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — More than 170 seaborne protesters descended on Oura Bay, Okinawa, on Monday to protest construction of a new runway that would support relocation of forces from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The protesters, in 70 canoes and nine other boats, gathered at Henoko fishing port about 8:30 a.m. before making their way to the coastal side of Camp Schwab, a Marine Corps base in the northern part of the island, Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

Protesters crossed floats meant to mark the runway’s construction area but were removed from

the area by 10 boats from Japan’s 11th Regional Coast Guard, Japanese police and Coast Guard officials said. No arrests were made.

The protest was one of the latest to come from the sea to date.

A small but fervent protest movement has been fighting for years to see U.S. military air operations moved off Okinawa.

Construction of the runway at Schwab is considered the cornerstone of a decadeslong relocation which will see Futenma, located in a densely packed urban area in central Okinawa, shuttered.

Landfill work for the runway is scheduled to begin Aug. 17 but anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga has vowed to block the project.

4-pound WWII-era bomb found on Stuttgart post

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A 4-pound World War II-era bomb was removed from the U.S. Army’s Robinson Barracks on Tuesday after being discovered at a construction site on post.

The explosive, a British incendiary bomb, was rendered safe and transported by a German explosive ordnance disposal unit, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart said in a statement.

The bomb was discovered at 9:30 a.m., resulting in temporary road closures near the housing area on post.

“The blocked roads on Robinson Barracks were returned to normal operation and construction on the site has resumed,” the garrison said.

In Germany, unexploded bombs are routinely discovered during construction projects and sometimes result in large evacuations as a precaution.

In November, a 500-pound WWII bomb was defused near the Army’s training center in the suburban Stuttgart town of Boeblingen, which forced the evacuation of about 500 residents. The area was heavily bombed by the Allies during the war.

On average, more than 2,000

tons of unexploded bombs and other munitions are found each year in Germany. About 15 percent of the bombs dropped during WWII failed to explode and many remain buried deep in the ground.

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EUROPE

NATO: Troops face mobility issues traveling across Europe

FROM FRONT PAGE

Brussels next month. The United States and NATO need to be able to “mass enough capability in place so that Russia doesn’t make a terrible miscalculation,” Hodges said.

The original rationale for the NATO alliance was to defend against a potential war with Russia. Western troops regularly practiced for large-scale conflict — and the front line between East and West Germany was just miles away from where more than 200,000 U.S. troops were deployed.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Western planners cheerfully threw away the playbooks in the hope of new cooperation with Moscow. For years after NATO’s 2004 expansion into territory that had once been the Soviet Union’s, the alliance had no plans for how to defend its new members.

“We didn’t think about enlargement in those military terms,” said Douglas Lute, a retired three-star U.S. Army general and former U.S. ambassador to NATO who as a young officer patrolled the internal German border a short trip away from where he was stationed.

Russia’s 2014 seizure of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula provided a jolt. Western planners went to retrieve their Cold War-era playbooks from the dustbin. But their Russia-fighting muscles had atrophied to the point where they could barely flex, and their ability to move across Europe had decayed.

“Transportation is a problem in a very practical way. But it’s a symptom of a bigger problem,” Lute said. “We’re now confronting the image that we had for the last 25 years, of Europe whole, free and at peace. It’s not whole, it’s not free and it’s not at peace.”

In some cases, military planners in Moscow had a better picture of bridges, roads and the weak points of the new NATO territories — because they used to be the Soviet Union’s.

Whereas Russia has no challenge moving its troops inside its own territory, a thicket of peacetime rules has complicated military movements within Europe.

Germany, for instance, allows trucks loaded with tanks and other heavy equipment on highways only at night on weekdays. Sweden, which isn’t a member of NATO but works closely with the alliance, requires three weeks’ notice before most military personnel and equipment can enter. The rails on Baltic railroads are set apart wider than the Western standard, meaning that trains have to be laboriously unloaded, then reloaded near Poland’s border with Lithuania. That can add days to a major movement of troops.

“If you can get there in 45 days, you’re just late to the fight,” said Maj. Gen. Steven Shapiro, the U.S. Army’s movements in Europe. Shapiro noted he recently had to file 17 forms to get troops from the German port of Bremerhaven to their destination in Poland. “There are days where we move at the speed of war. But, generally speaking, that’s outside of the current norm.”

For example, the U.S. Army’s movements in Europe, Shapiro noted he recently had to file 17 forms to get troops from the German port of Bremerhaven to their destination in Poland. “There are days where we move at the speed of war. But, generally speaking, that’s outside of the current norm.”

“On the 15th of August, we finished our mission,” said Lackey, the squadron’s commander. “Some vehicles didn’t return until late December.”

Phobes quickly piled up. Hungarian border guards didn’t like the Romanian-ap-



EMILY HOUDERSHIELD/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers with Battle Group Poland prepare to depart from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Headquarters in Vilseck, Germany, last year. Battle Group Poland comprises U.S. soldiers assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and soldiers from the U.K. and Romania.



CHARLES ROSEMOND/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment arrive in Orzysz, Poland, to form Battle Group Poland in March 2017.

proved way the Stryker armored vehicles were chained to rail cars, so the chains on all 12 trainloads had to come off and be refastened, Lackey said. One inspector flunked the convoy on Thursday, took the weekend off and came back days later. The Strykers missed their narrow window in Germany’s teeming rail network and had to wait in line behind commuter and commercial train traffic.

“They don’t care if you’re U.S. Army Europe,” Lackey said. “They’re Deutsche Bahn.”

The squadron ended up having to train back in Germany without their specialized vehicles — a bit like forcing Formula One drivers to run sprints because their race cars are stuck on a trailer. Once the Strykers finally arrived, the troops discovered that the lashing rains and snow of a European autumn doubled the amount of maintenance needed to get them back into fighting shape, Lackey said.

If a crisis had broken out while the soldiers waited, they wouldn’t have been ready to roll out.

NATO leaders are just beginning to address the underlying issues. They have worked with the European Union in the past year to boost funding for infrastructure and reduce bureaucratic roadblocks. At the

‘If you can get there in 45 days, you’re just late to the fight.’

Maj. Gen. Steven Shapiro

charged with organizing U.S. Army’s movements in Europe

Brussels summit next month — barring surprises from President Donald Trump, who has frequently complained that other NATO nations are not spending enough on defense — they are expected to approve two new military commands that would speed transit from the East Coast of the United States all the way to NATO’s border with Russia.

In a related move, leaders are also expected to approve plans to increase the number of NATO troops that could make the rapid journey if needed to about 30,000 within 30 days. NATO currently has a rapid-reaction force of 5,000 troops on standby to deploy within 10 days, and military planners fear that is not enough.

Taken together, these changes would mark a significant boost in NATO’s efforts to try to deter Russia, although they would not come close to the military resources that were ready for a short-notice fight at Cold War heights.

The hope is that they can avoid war by being able to rush troops to scare off the enemy across the border. “As long as we can provide credible and strong deterrence, including the ability to move forces, then we are preventing conflict,” NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this month.

The trickiest spot to defend in all of NATO is likely the narrow strip of land that connects Lithuania to Poland. The 40-mile-wide corridor is hemmed in by the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on one side and Belarus, a Russian ally, on the other. It is the Baltic nations’ lifeline to the rest of NATO — and the connection is through a single rail line on the wrong gauge and one usable two-lane highway over rolling terrain that switches from lakes to forests to farmland.

Worried Western officials have started calling the area the Suwalki gap, taking inspiration from the Fulda Gap that was the weakest point in Cold War-era defenses of West Germany.

The Suwalki area is well within range of sophisticated Russian anti-aircraft missiles stationed in Kaliningrad, so in com-

bat simulations, NATO commanders have hesitated to send warplanes near the region. That led to the Baltics quickly being seized. Any troops coming in on the ground would have to fight without air support — and their entry into the region could be halted by something as simple as a single overturned truck on the highway.

“The place that is most vulnerable to this kind of a rapid strike is the Suwalki corridor region,” said Hodges, the former commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, who has been working on a report about how to bolster the area’s defenses.

Now, camouflaged troop carriers ply the region’s roads, some of which are so narrow they don’t have lane markings to divide each direction of traffic. Long columns of cars can pile up behind slow-moving trucks on the main route into Lithuania, the only alternative is a country road that can’t handle heavy traffic. Lumbering Belarus-built tractors can sometimes make the traffic move even more slowly.

The vulnerability means that if Russian troops were massing across the border, NATO would need to deploy — fast. A 2016 study from the Rand Corp. found that Russia could seize the Latvian capital of Riga in 60 hours or less.

“We cannot change the geography,” said Lt. Col. Mindaugas Petkevicius, the deputy commander of a NATO logistics team based in Lithuania. “It’s a natural choke point.”

Inside Lithuania’s military headquarters, the need for speed is on stark display. Packed rucksacks stand on top of the closets in every office so that workers can mobilize immediately if war breaks out. Computer keyboards have Cyrillic-alphabet overlays, the better to communicate with Russian and Belarusian counterparts.

“The Baltics could be the place where Russia tests all of NATO,” said the officer who runs logistics for the Lithuanian Defense Ministry, Lt. Col. Valdas Dambrauskas. “If it fails, all of NATO fails.”

NATION

Immigrant kids face strained foster system

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

Foster care advocates say the government won't likely be able to reunite thousands of children separated from parents who crossed the border illegally, and some will end up in an American foster care system that is stacked against Latinos and other minorities.

With few Spanish-speaking caseworkers, it's a challenge tracking down family members of the children who live south of the U.S.-Mexico border, and other relatives living in the states might be afraid to step forward to claim them because of fears of being detained or deported themselves.

Many complications have arisen for these separated families since the Trump administration adopted its "zero tolerance" policy on entering the country illegally. As many as 2,300 children have been taken from their migrant parents at the border and long-term treatment of them is a concern.

"Because they are Latino and because their relatives are living, not in Europe, not in Asia, but down south of the border, they are going to be discriminated against," said Richard Villasana, founder of Forever Homes for Foster Kids, who concentrates on locating relatives of foster children. "That's exactly what's going to happen to these migrant kids. The probability they



A young immigrant holds his belongings in a Homeland Security bag while waiting to enter the bus station after being processed and released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in McAllen, Texas, on Friday.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

are going to get better treatment than our U.S.-born Latino children? It's not going to happen."

Those children who do get placed with families face the likelihood of losing their language and culture, which advocates say could have a detrimental effect on how they develop.

Peter Schey, the attorney in a lawsuit resulting in the 1997 Flores settlement that generally bars children from being kept in immigration detention for more than 20 days and is now being challenged by the Trump administration, said he was concerned that several thousand children have

already been separated from their parents "without the Trump administration having any effective procedures in place to reunite children with their parents, many of whom have already been deported."

Officials have said they are working to reunite families as soon as possible but have provided no clear answers on how that will happen. The children are now in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, and can be "held in a temporary shelter or hosted by an appropriate family."

The Homeland Security Department said in fiscal year 2017, before the zero tol-

erance policy began, it was able to place 90 percent of its children with either a parent or close relative.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement is working on "dedicating a facility as its primary family reunification and removal center," a briefing sheet said.

However, many child welfare professionals worry these children will "end up in a child welfare system where we already have thousands of children across this country where many of them are trying to reunify" with parents and relatives, said Maria L. Quintanilla, founder and executive director of the Latino Family Institute.

In 2016, more than 91,000 Hispanic or Latino children were in the foster care system in the United States, according to government data. Hispanic children made up a little more than 1 in 5 — 21 percent — of all children in foster care in September 2016, according to the most recent data available. That was an increase from 10 years earlier, when Hispanic children made up 19 percent of the foster care population.

More than 54,000 Hispanic children entered foster care in 2016, with more than 25,000 waiting to be adopted at the end of the fiscal year. More than 53,000 exited the foster care system that year because they were reunified with their parents, adopted or entered guardianship with another family.

A day with Border Patrol: At-risk infant, distraught kin

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas — The 4-month-old Honduran had just entered the United States illegally with a man who first claimed to be her father, then said he was her uncle, and presented what appeared to be a false birth certificate.

The girl, wrapped in white bedding, was placed in a white crib under close watch of U.S. investigators, who waited for a Honduran consular official to arrive Monday. She was among about 1,100 people in a former warehouse that tripled in size last year, largely to accommodate people — many from Central America — traveling as families, and children traveling alone.

Customs and Border Protection allowed news media organizations to tour of the 77,000-square-foot facility in McAllen on Monday on condition that no photos or video be taken. Families and children rested under shiny thermal blankets in cells of chain-link fences adorned with high-hanging televisions. They exited their cells for a lunch of a sandwich and apples.

After a similar facility in Nogales, Ariz., built for an influx of Central Americans in 2014 closed, McAllen's "Ursula" processing center — named for the street on which it is located — became the agency's only holding facility in the country with chain-link fences to detain children and families. There are separate pods for boys who came alone, girls who came alone and parents with their young children. Some older children are split from their parents to avoid having them mix with much younger children.

Within 72 hours, the adults and families



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

A mother immigrating from Honduras holds her 1-year-old child while surrendering to U.S. Border Patrol agents after illegally crossing the border Monday near McAllen, Texas.

are turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and unaccompanied children are turned over to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The agency also gave reporters a tour of the McAllen station's area of responsibility along the snaking Rio Grande, the nation's busiest station after the key drivers of illegal immigration shifted over the last decade from adult Mexican men entering in Arizona to Central American families and

unaccompanied children crossing the river on Texas' southern tip.

Two Honduran women — one with a 12-year-old daughter and one with a year-old boy — and two teenagers turned themselves in to Border Patrol agents a short distance from the river. The smuggler escaped back to Mexico on a dirt road surrounded on both sides by a lush landscape of mesquite trees and thorny brush.

Agents found Gerberht Charac, 19, on the

roof of a trailer with a fellow Guatemalan seeking to elude authorities. Charac said he agreed to pay a smuggler \$12,000 to get from Guatemala to Houston, where he planned to join a friend. He swam across the Rio Grande and stayed in a smuggling organization's house before getting caught.

"I had hopes of making it," Charac said as he choked up explaining that he came to the U.S. to provide for his wife and daughter who stayed behind in Guatemala.

NATION

Tempers flare, insults exchanged over immigration

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Political rancor over immigration has boiled over into increasingly personal insults, as President Donald Trump took a harsh shot at a prominent congresswoman's intellect and Democrats worried that some of their own anti-Trump rhetoric might play into his hands and backfire in November.

With language reaching belligerent levels seldom heard since the 2016 campaign, Republican tactics seemed aimed at least in part at activating loyal supporters for the midterm elections.

The issue of what passes for political civility in 2018 has been eagerly stoked by Trump, who has embraced the cultural battles playing out everywhere from restaurant tables to football fields to late-night comedy. The ejection of White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and her family from a Virginia restaurant over the weekend symbolizes the public anger that has tied Democrats in knots, leaving them torn as to how to respond to a president who defies the norms of his office.

Trump punched back sharply Monday after Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, of California, told a crowd in her state over the weekend that "if you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them!"

Trump, always eager for a foil, tweeted in retort: "Congresswoman Maxine Waters, an extraordinarily low IQ person, has become, together with Pelosi, the Face of the Democrat Party. She has just called for harm to supporters, of which there are many, of the Make America Great Again movement. Be careful what you wish for Max!"

Other Democrats quickly distanced themselves from Waters' call to action, suggesting it could endanger Democrats' chances in the midterms that could determine the next chapter of Trump's presidency.

"In the crucial months ahead, we must strive to make America beautiful again," tweeted Pelosi, the House minority leader. "Trump's daily lack of civility has provoked responses that are predictable but unacceptable. As we go forward, we must conduct elections in a way that achieves unity from sea to shining sea."

Win elections

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Monday from the Senate floor that "the best solution is to win elections. That is a far more productive way to channel the legitimate frustrations with this president's policies than with harassing members of his administration."

Trump welcomes the fight, from the depiction of his supporters in the short-lived "Roseanne" revival to NFL players kneeling



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Protesters gather in front of the media before President Donald Trump, who was in town to support Gov. Henry McMaster, spoke to the crowd at Airport High School on Monday in West Columbia, S.C.

GOP struggles with bill ahead of recess

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Struggling to find the votes to pass an immigration overhaul, House Republicans are focusing on a slimmed-down bill to stem the crisis of separating immigrant families at the border.

But even that more modest measure has hit uncertainty. President Donald Trump rejected the idea of adding more immigration judges, insisting it would only lead to graft even though supporters say the step could help expedite the logjam of claims that can prolong detentions.

With Congress wavering on the next moves, it's uncertain if lawmakers will be able to swiftly act on any bills to address the border crisis despite an outpouring of public concern over reports of immigrant children being separated from their parents.

"We want a system where when people come in illegally, they have to go out," Trump said Monday during an event at the White House. "A nice, simple system that works."

House Republicans were set to meet Tuesday behind closed doors to map out their options for taking action before lawmakers leave town at the end of the week for the Fourth of July holiday recess. Votes may be scheduled for Wednesday. But with Trump's on-again, off-again support, the outlook for passage of the broader immigration overhaul was dimming.

"The president is the fuel that propels this rocket off the pad," said Rep. Mark Walker, of North Carolina, chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee. "If that's not there, no matter how good the framework is, it's

going to be challenging."

Still, many Republicans are eager to address the border crisis and distance themselves from the Trump administration's policy that has resulted in more than 2,300 migrant children being separated from their parents.

Even though the president signed an executive order last week reversing the situation, lawmakers heading into a midterm election year want to be able to show constituents back home they voted to end it. Some 500 minors have been reunited so far, officials said.

"I don't know why we wouldn't vote for a bill that keeps families together," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Senate Republicans have proposed legislation that would lift rules that prevent children from being held longer than 20 days in custody. It would add 200 immigration judges to more quickly process the claims.

But Trump has repeatedly dismissed the need for more judges and did so again Monday.

"You know what it leads? It leads to graft," Trump said. "It leads to a lot of other things."

One Republican disagreed and joined others in pushing for congressional independence. "Judges would absolutely help," said Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, on CNN's "New Day." As for Congress following Trump's lead on immigration, he added, "The White House isn't our boss."

Meanwhile, senators soldiered on trying to broker a compromise. Late Monday, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, of Texas, was meeting with a top Democrat on immigration issues, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who has drafted an alternative approach.

Sanders was shown the door at the Red Hen in Lexington, about three hours outside Washington, by the restaurant's owner on Friday. The press secretary tweeted from her government Twitter account that she was asked "to leave because I work for @POTUS and I politely left. Her actions say far more about her than about me."

She used her press briefing on Monday, the first in a week, to declare that Americans are "allowed to disagree, but we should be able to do so freely and without fear of harm."

The restaurant episode comes amid other acts of street protests against Trump aides and allies. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen was hounded from a Mexican restaurant in Washington amid cries of "Shame!" last week. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi was heckled at a screening of a documentary about Mr. Rogers, the paragon of kindness and civility.

Many on the left cheered the efforts, citing the Trump administration's policies toward immigrants as attacks on human rights that deserved the same sort of public displays of disobedience that defined the civil rights and gay rights movements.

But some Democrats worried that the protesters were going too far.

'Appalled'

In a series of tweets, David Axelrod, the former chief strategist to President Barack Obama, warned that the push for public provocation was "a counterproductive gesture." He wrote that he was "amazed and appalled" at liberals who cheered Sanders' ejection, which he framed as "a triumph for @realDonaldTrump vision of America."

Trump himself appeared to agree that the debate was to his advantage, retweeting a post from Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, who wrote that "Trump haters still haven't realized how much they help him with their condemnation of those who either voted for him or don't share their hatred of him. And how much they help him with their irrational hostility toward those who work for him."

Sanders' father, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, used the moment to tweet a photo of tattooed MS-13 gang members and suggested that they were part of Pelosi's campaign committee to take back the House. That tweet came amid a stretch of days when Trump used seemingly coded language — including "invaders" and "infests" — to describe the Latino migrants illegally crossing the border into the United States.

Trump, meanwhile, also targeted the Red Hen by using his 53 million-follower Twitter account as if he were posting a restaurant review on Yelp.

"The Red Hen Restaurant should focus more on cleaning its filthy canopies, doors and windows (badly needs a paint job) rather than refusing to serve a fine person like Sarah Huckabee Sanders," he wrote. "I always had a rule, if a restaurant is dirty on the outside, it is dirty on the inside!"

The restaurant's most recent health inspection showed no violations and complimented the staff.

for the national anthem, believing that us-versus-them partisan issues fire up his base of supporters. With the Russia investigation swirling and Republicans facing an uncertain fate in November, he has further abandoned any unifying powers of his office, leaning hard into partisan warfare while adopting an aggrieved stance to

dish out attacks that dominate the news and distract from scandals.

While his rough rhetoric since his campaign has given license for some of his followers to engage in inflammatory acts, the anger on the left has sparked its own set of truly images, further amplifying the political divisions in the nation's civil war.

NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Visitors depart the Supreme Court on Monday. The justices handed down decisions Tuesday as the court's term comes to a close.

Supreme Court voids part of crisis pregnancy center law

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court says a California law that forces anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers to provide information about abortion probably violates the Constitution.

The 5-4 ruling Tuesday also casts doubts on similar laws in Hawaii and Illinois. The California law took effect in 2016. It requires centers that are licensed by the state to tell clients about the availability of contraception, abortion and pre-natal care, at little or no cost. Centers that are unlicensed were required to post a sign that said so. The court struck down that portion of the law.

The centers said they were singled out and forced to deliver a message with which they disagreed. California said the law was needed to let poor women know all their options.

Justice Clarence Thomas said in his majority opinion the centers "are likely to succeed" in their constitutional challenge to the law.

"California cannot co-opt the licensed facilities to deliver its message for it," Thomas wrote for himself and his conservative

colleagues, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch. He called the requirement for unlicensed centers "unjustified and unduly burdensome."

Justice Stephen Breyer said among the reasons the law should be upheld is that the high court has previously upheld state laws requiring doctors to tell women seeking abortions about adoption services. "After all, the law must be evenhanded," Breyer said in a dissenting opinion joined by his liberal colleagues, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

The abortion rights group NARAL Pro-Choice California was a prime sponsor of the California law. NARAL contends that the centers mislead women about their options and try to pressure them to forgo abortion.

California's law was challenged by the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, an organization with ties to 1,500 pregnancy centers nationwide and 140 in California.

The court has previously upheld requirements that doctors in abortion clinics must tell patients about alternatives to abortion.

High court upholds Trump's travel ban

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, rejecting a challenge that it discriminated against Muslims or exceeded his authority.

The 5-4 decision Tuesday is the court's first substantive ruling on a Trump administration policy.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, joined by his four conservative colleagues. Roberts wrote that presidents have substantial power to regulate immigration. He also rejected the challengers' claim of anti-Muslim bias.

But he was careful not to endorse either Trump's provocative statements about immigration in general and Muslims in particular.

"We express no view on the soundness of the policy," Roberts wrote.

The travel ban has been fully in place since the court declined to block it in December. The justices allowed the policy to take full effect even as the court fight continued and lower courts had ruled it out of bounds.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a dissent that based on the evidence in the case "a reasonable observer would conclude that the Proclamation was motivated by anti-Muslim animus." She said her colleagues arrived at the opposite result by "ignoring the facts, misconstruing our legal precedent, and turning a blind eye to the pain and suffering the Proclamation inflicts upon countless families and individuals, many of whom are United States citizens."

Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan also dissented.

The policy applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations — Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families. A sixth Muslim country, Chad, was removed from

the list in April after improving "its identity-management and information sharing practices," Trump said in a proclamation.

The administration had pointed to the Chad decision to show that the restrictions are premised only on national security concerns.

The challengers, though, argued that the court could just ignore all that has happened, beginning with Trump's campaign tweets to prevent the entry of Muslims into the United States. Just a week after he took office in January 2017, Trump announced his first travel ban aimed at seven countries.

That triggered chaos and protests across the U.S. as travelers were stopped from boarding international flights and detained at airports for hours. Trump tweaked the order after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco refused to reinstate the ban.

The next version, unveiled in March 2017, dropped Iraq from the list of covered countries and made it clear the 90-day ban covering Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen didn't apply to those travelers who already had visas. It also eliminated language that would give priority to religious minorities. Critics said the changes didn't erase the ban's legal problems.

The current version dates from September and it followed what the administration has called a thorough review by several federal agencies, although it has not shared the review with courts or the public.

Federal trial judges in Hawaii and Maryland had blocked the travel ban from taking effect, finding that the new version looked too much like its predecessors. Those rulings were largely upheld by federal appeals courts in Richmond, Virginia, and San Francisco.

Roberts wrote that presidents have frequently used their power to talk to the nation "to espouse the principles of religious freedom and tolerance on which this Nation was founded."

But he added that presidents and the country have not always lived up "to those inspiring words."

House unanimously OKs benefits for Blue Water Navy vets

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House unanimously passed legislation Monday that would extend Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to approximately 90,000 sailors who served off the coast during the Vietnam War, some of whom have been fighting for years to prove their illnesses were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Lawmakers voted 382-0 in favor of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which must go to the Senate for final approval. It provides eligibility for disability compensation to "Blue Water" Navy veterans — those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to

Agent Orange through the ships' water systems. The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

"Every day, thousands of brave veterans who served in the Vietnam War fight the health effects of Agent Orange exposure," said Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., the bill's lead sponsor. "It is far past time we pass this critical legislation and give them the comfort and care they deserve."

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., said the legislation would correct a "long-standing injustice."

A VA policy decision in 2002 stripped Blue Water Navy veterans of their eligibility for compensation unless they could prove they set foot in Vietnam. Bills were introduced in 2011, 2013

and 2015 to address the problem, but progress stalled because of cost concerns.

Extending the benefits for 10 years would cost \$1.1 billion, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. To make up the cost, the legislation raises fees for servicemembers and veterans who use the VA's home loan program. The increase amounts to between \$2.14 and \$2.95 each month.

"It has taken years of dedicated advocacy and bipartisanship to get us here today," Takano said. "Finding over \$1 billion in the federal budget is not an easy task. The solution in this bill is fair."

Susie Belanger and John Wells — both Florida residents — were in the House gallery on Monday when lawmakers cast their votes. The two formed the group Military-Veterans Advocacy nearly

eight years ago to push Congress to work for Blue Water Navy veterans.

Belanger's husband, Ernest Belanger, was a sailor who served off the coast of Vietnam. He successfully received approval for VA benefits by proving he stepped foot in the country, but the couple knew other veterans were still being denied coverage. Susie Belanger recruited Wells, an attorney and retired Navy officer and started an emailing campaign. Now, her emails are known on Capitol Hill as "Susie-grams."

"Little by little, they all listened," Belanger said. "That's how we got this as far as we have."

Lawmakers repeatedly thanked advocates Monday who helped make the issue a priority in Con-

gress. Valadao called Belanger out by name.

"Passage of this bill today would not be possible without Ms. Susie Belanger, who worked tirelessly to raise awareness on this issue," Valadao said.

It's uncertain when the Senate might take up the issue. Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, urged the Senate to pass it.

"When I got the chairmanship a year ago, I said one of the things I'll base my chairmanship on is if we can get this solved and do the right thing," Roe said. "Today we're going to do the right thing in this House and send it to the Senate, where they will do the right thing."

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NATION

Drought-stricken West braces for wildfire season

By PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands fled their homes as major wildfires encroached on a charred area of Northern California still recovering from severe blazes in recent years, sparking concern the state may be in for another destructive series of wildfires this summer.

Severe drought has already forced officials in several western states to close national parks as precautions against wildfires and to issue warnings throughout the region to prepare for the worst.

In California, officials said unusually hot weather, high winds and highly flammable vegetation turned brittle by drought helped fuel the fires that began over the

weekend, the same conditions that led to the state's deadliest and most destructive fire year in 2017.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday declared a state of emergency in Lake County, where the biggest fire was raging about 120 miles north of San Francisco, a rural region particularly hard hit by fires in recent years. The declaration will enable officials to receive more state resources to fight the fire and for recovery.

Jim Steele, an elected supervisor, said the county is impoverished and its firefighting equipment antiquated. He also said the county has just a few roads into and out of the region, which can hinder response time.

Steele said the area has also been susceptible to fire for many decades because of dense brush



PAUL KITAGAKI JR., THE SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

Fire crews battle a wildfire in Spring Valley, Calif., on Monday.

and trees in the sparsely populated area, but the severity of the latest blazes is unexpected.

"What's happened with the more warming climate is we get low humidity and higher winds, and then we get a fire that's worse than it's been in those 50 years," Steele said.

The fire that broke out Saturday evening has forced 3,000 residents from their homes and destroyed at least 22 buildings. It is the latest devastating blaze to rip through the isolated and impoverished county of just 65,000 people in the last few years.

In 2015, a series of fires de-

stroyed 2,000 buildings and killed four people.

The following year, an arsonist started a fire that wiped out 300 buildings.

Last year, the county was among those ravaged by a string of fires that ripped through Northern California wine country.



Jae C. Hong/AP

Firefighters salute as a van carrying the body of Long Beach fire Capt. Dave Rosa passes them during a procession Monday in Long Beach, Calif.

Police say elderly gunman lured firefighters to home and killed 1

Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A man set a fire to lure firefighters to his Southern California retirement home so he could shoot them, authorities said. The attack killed one firefighter and wounded another.

Thomas Kim, 77, was arrested Monday on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and arson, but investigators were still trying to determine a motive for the attack in the southern Los Angeles suburb, police Chief Robert Luna said.

"There's still a large puzzle we're trying to put together. There's still a lot of information we don't know," Luna said.

Kim remained jailed on \$2 million bail. It was unclear whether he had an attorney.

Firefighters were called to the 11-story Covenant Manor about 4 a.m. Monday by reports of an explosion.

They found some second-floor windows blown out, activated sprinklers, the smell of gas and a fire that they extinguished,

authorities said.

Firefighters were searching the building when shots rang out, and the two firefighters were hit, fire Chief Michael DuRee said.

Fire Capt. Dave Rosa, a 17-year veteran, died at a hospital, the chief said. He is survived by a wife and two children ages 16 and 25.

"Long Beach lost a hero today," Mayor Robert Garcia said.

Dozens of firefighters stood at attention and saluted as the flag-draped coffin carrying Rosa's body was brought out of a hospital Monday afternoon and loaded into a corner's van.

Community members waved American flags along the street outside the hospital as the procession of police and fire vehicles escorted the van to the corner's office.

The other firefighter, Ernesto Torres, was released from the hospital and was expected to make a full recovery, officials said.

Moonwalker Aldrin suing 2 of his children over finances

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Apollo 11 moonwalker Buzz Aldrin is suing two of his children and a former business manager, accusing them of misusing his credit cards, transferring money from an account and slandering him by saying he has dementia.

Aldrin's lawsuit, filed earlier this month in a Florida state court, came a week after his children, Andrew and Janice, filed a petition claiming their father was suffering from memory loss, delusions, paranoia and confusion. They asked for the court to name them his legal guardians, saying Aldrin was associating with new friends who were trying to alienate him from his family and that he had been spending his assets at "an alarming rate."

Court-appointed mental health experts planned to evaluate Aldrin in Florida this week.

In April, Aldrin, 88, underwent his own evaluation conducted by a geriatric psychiatrist at UCLA, who said Aldrin scored "superior to normal" for his age on tests.

"I also believe that he is perfectly capable of providing for his physical health needs, food, clothing and shelter, and is substantially able to manage his finances and resist fraud and undue influence," said Dr. James Spar in a letter to Aldrin's attorney.

In Aldrin's lawsuit, the former astronaut asked a judge to remove Andrew Aldrin from control of his financial affairs, social media accounts and several nonprofit and business enterprises. Andrew Aldrin had been a trustee of his father's trust. Buzz Aldrin said in the complaint that despite revoking the power of attorney, he had allowed his son to continue making financial decisions for him.

"Specifically, defendant Andrew Aldrin, as trustee, does not inform plaintiff of pending or future business transactions,

removes large sums of monies from plaintiffs accounts and continues to represent plaintiff in business and social capacities despite plaintiff's repeated requests for such representations to be terminated," the lawsuit said.

Aldrin accused his daughter, Janice, in the lawsuit of not acting in his financial interests and conspiracy, and he accused his former manager, Christina Korp, of fraud, exploitation of the elderly and unjust enrichment. Also named in the lawsuit are several businesses and foundations run by the family.

Aldrin's oldest son, James, isn't involved in the legal fight.

In a statement, Andrew and Janice Aldrin said they're saddened by the "unjustifiable" lawsuit.

"If nothing else, our family is resilient and our ability to work together to solve problems and accomplish great things is strong," the Aldrin children said. "We love and respect our father very much and remain hopeful that we can rise above this situation and recover the strong relationship that built this foundation in the first place."

In a guardianship evaluation, the mental health experts typically ask questions like, "Who is the president? What day of the week is it? If I gave you this amount of money, how much change would you have?" said Vicki Levy Eskin, an Orlando-area attorney with no connection to the Aldrin case.

"His alleging that his children have done all these naughty things is a good defense," said Eskin, whose work focuses on guardianship, estate planning and elderly law issues. "That's the job of his attorney to prove this."



Aldrin

NATION

US OKs prescription drug made with marijuana

By MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health regulators on Monday approved the first prescription drug made from marijuana, a milestone that could spur more research into a drug that remains illegal under federal law despite growing legalization for recreational and medical use.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the medication, called Epidiolex, to treat two rare forms of epilepsy in patients 2 years and older. But it's not quite medical marijuana.

The strawberry-flavored syrup is a purified form of a chemical ingredient found in the cannabis plant — but not the one that gets users high. It's not yet clear why the ingredient, called cannabidiol, or CBD, reduces seizures in some people with epilepsy.

British drugmaker GW Pharmaceuticals studied the drug in more than 500 children and adults with hard-to-treat seizures, overcoming numerous legal hurdles that have long stymied research into cannabis.

FDA officials said the drug reduced seizures when combined with older epilepsy drugs. FDA chief Scott Gottlieb said his agency had supported research on cannabis-derived products "for many years."

"This approval serves as a reminder that sound development programs that properly evaluate active ingredients contained in marijuana can lead to important medical therapies," Gottlieb told reporters.

The FDA has previously approved synthetic versions of another cannabis ingredient for medical use, including severe weight loss in patients with HIV.

Epidiolex is essentially a pharmaceutical-grade version CBD oil, which some parents already use to treat children with epilepsy. CBD is one of more than 100 chemicals found in marijuana. It doesn't contain THC, the ingredient that gives marijuana its mind-altering effect.

Physicians say it's important to have a consistent, government-regulated version.

"I'm really happy we have a

product that will be much cleaner and one that I know what it is," said Dr. Ellaine Wirrell, director of the Mayo Clinic's program for childhood epilepsy. "In the artisanal products there's often a huge variation in doses from bottle to bottle depending on where you get it."

Side effects with the drug include diarrhea, vomiting, fatigue and sleep problems.

CBD oil is currently sold online and in specialty shops across the U.S., though its legal status remains murky. Most producers say their oil is made from hemp, a plant in the cannabis family that contains little THC and can be legally farmed in a number of states for clothing, food and other uses.

A GW Pharmaceuticals spokeswoman said the company would not immediately announce a price for the drug, which it expects to launch in the fall. Wall Street analysts have previously predicted it could cost \$25,000 per year, with annual sales eventually reaching \$1 billion.

For their part, GW Pharmaceuticals executives say they are not



KATHY YOUNG/AP

U.S. health regulators on Monday approved the first prescription drug made from marijuana but without the plant's mind-altering THC.

trying to disrupt products already on the market. The company has pushed legislation in several states to make sure its drug can be legally sold and prescribed.

The FDA approval for Epidiolex is technically limited to patients with Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut

syndromes, two rare forms of epilepsy for which there are few effective treatments. Patients experience frequent, severe seizures in some cases more than 100 per day.

But doctors will have the option to prescribe it for other uses.

Ariz. woman denied drug to end her pregnancy

By MELISSA DANIELS
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — The Arizona State Board of Pharmacy will investigate the complaint of a woman who says Walgreens pharmacist refused to give her medication necessary to end her pregnancy after her baby stopped developing.

The woman, who the Arizona Republic identified as Nicole Arteaga, described in a viral Facebook post how she was publicly humiliated when attempting to fill the prescription to end her pregnancy — a pregnancy she wanted, but needed to terminate because she would ultimately miscarry. She says the pharmacist refused to fill the prescription with other customers within earshot and she left the location in tears with her 7-year-old child by her side.

Arteaga was able to fill her prescription at a different location later, and filed a complaint with the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy.

Kam Gandhi, executive director at Planned Parenthood, said the agency has talked to Arteaga or the pharmacist yet, but will aim to conduct a full investigation before the board's next meeting in August.

Arizona is one of six states that permit pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions on moral or religious grounds without requiring a referral or transfer of the prescription, according to the National Women's Law Center. The law specifically mentions abortion medication or emergency contraception and says medical professionals like pharmacists must state their objection in writing. Gandhi said that part of the law hasn't been interpreted by the board.



PATRICK BREEN, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

Nicole Arteaga says a Walgreens pharmacist in Arizona denied her prescription because it was against his ethics. Arteaga sought medication to end her pregnancy after her baby stopped developing.

Once the investigation is presented to the board, it can determine whether to dismiss the complaint or take further action. That could include a type of warning letter, civil penalties, a voluntary surrender of license or continued education, Gandhi said.

Arteaga also said she had contacted Walgreens' corporate office. On Monday, the company was tweeting replies to individuals who were outraged by Arteaga's post.

In one, the company said it apologized to the patient about how the situation was handled. It also said it was looking into the matter further, while another message explained store policies.

"Our policy allows pharmacists to step away from filling a prescription for which they have a moral objection," the tweet read. "At the same time, they are also required to refer the prescription to another pharmacist or manager

on duty to meet the patient's needs in a timely manner." The company told The Associated Press on Monday that the pharmacist in question was the only one on duty at the time, so he called another location to serve the patient.

Arteaga found out she was pregnant about two months ago and was being monitored weekly because of a prior miscarriage. Last week, Arteaga's doctor told her that her baby had stopped developing and she would ultimately miscarry. Her doctor gave her the prescription after she opted to use medication instead of a procedure.

"I get it we all have our beliefs," she wrote. "But what he failed to understand is this isn't the situation I had hoped for, this isn't something I wanted. This is something I have zero control over. He has no idea what it's like to want nothing more than to carry a child to full term and be unable to do so."

Porn actress' lawyer: Meeting axed after spat over media leak

Associated Press

Stormy Daniels' planned meeting with investigators Monday in the federal probe of President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney was abruptly canceled just hours before it was to start after an ugly, finger-pointing spat between prosecutors and the porn star's lawyer over who tipped off the media to the sit-down.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was supposed to meet with prosecutors from the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan in preparation for a possible grand jury appearance as they work to assemble a case against Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

But after several news organizations, including The Associated Press, reported on the meeting, two prosecutors called Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, and told him that they were concerned about media attention in the case, he said.

Avenatti offered to move the meeting to another location and reiterated that Daniels — who he says has been cooperating with prosecutors for months — was ready to go forward with the meeting, but they called back to cancel it, he said. The meeting has not been rescheduled, he said.

Daniels has said she had sex with Trump in 2016 when he was married, which Trump has denied. As part of their investigation into Cohen, prosecutors have been examining the \$130,000 payment that was made to Daniels as part of a confidentiality agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

"We believe canceling the meeting because the press has now caught wind of it is ridiculous," Avenatti wrote in an email to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicolas Roos. "We do not think it was any secret that at some point you were going to meet with my client."

In response, Roos accused Avenatti of leaking the details of the meeting — an allegation that Avenatti said was "patently false" — and said it called into question Avenatti's "commitment to maintaining the required confidentiality" of what is discussed in the meeting with Daniels.

"Such confidentiality is critical to the diligence, fairness, and integrity of the ongoing all investigations conducted by this Office," Roos wrote. "This is not our preferred approach, and a step we are only rarely forced to take, but we are left with no choice."

Daniels is suing to invalidate the confidentiality agreement that prevents her from discussing the alleged relationship with Trump. She argues the nondisclosure agreement should be invalidated because Cohen signed it but the president did not.

NATION



PHOTOS BY LORIN ELENI GILL/AP

Muna Aneae prepares a ball of khobz orouk, a flatbread she would eat frequently in her native Iraq, at the Tawla restaurant kitchen in San Francisco on Wednesday during the inaugural Refugee Food Festival.

Festival gives refugee chefs a chance to share taste of home

BY LORIN ELENI GILL
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — At San Francisco's Tawla restaurant, Muna Aneae powdered her hands with flour and gently broke off a piece of golden dough to prepare bread eaten in Iraq, the country she fled with her family.

Aneae was preparing more than 100 loaves for diners last week as part of a program that lets refugees aspiring to be chefs work in professional kitchens.

The Refugee Food Festival — a joint initiative of the United Nations Refugee Agency and a French nonprofit, Food Sweet Food — started in Paris in 2016 and came to the U.S. for the first time this year, with restaurants in New York participating as well. The establishments' owners turn over their kitchens to refugee chefs for an evening, allowing them to prepare sampling platters of their country's cuisine and share a taste of their home.

Restaurants in 12 cities outside the U.S. are taking part in the program this month.

"It's been a big dream to open a restaurant," said Aneae, 45, who now has a green card.

Aneae was among five refugees chosen to showcase their food in San Francisco — each at a different restaurant and on a different night, from Tuesday through Saturday. Organizers said the goal is to help the refugees succeed as chefs and raise awareness about the plight of refugees worldwide.

It's important to "really get to know these refugees and their personal stories," said Sara Shah, who brought the event to California after seeing it in Belgium.

Aneae and her husband and two children left Baghdad in 2013 over concerns about terrorism and violence. She worked as a kindergarten teacher in Iraq, not a chef, but was



Pa Wah, a refugee from Myanmar, mixes shrimp in a turmeric tempura batter at the Hog Island Oyster Co. restaurant in San Francisco during the festival.

urged to pursue cooking as a career by peers in an English class she took in California after they tasted some of her food.

Azhar Hashem, Tawla's owner, said hosting Aneae was part of the restaurant's mission to broaden diners' understanding of the Middle East — a region that inspires some of its dishes.

"Food is the best — and most humanizing — catalyst for having harder conversations," she said.

The four other aspiring chefs who served food in San Francisco are from Myanmar, Bhutan, Syria and Senegal. Karen Ferguson, executive director of the Northern California offices of the International Rescue Committee, said San Francisco was a good city for the food festival.

"We have so much diversity, and we see the evidence of that in the culinary expertise in the area," she said.

The Bay Area has a high concen-

tration of refugees from Afghanistan, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Eritrea and Myanmar, though exact numbers are unclear, according to the rescue committee. Its Oakland office settled more than 400 refugees in the Bay Area last year, but the number of refugees settling in the region has fallen dramatically since the Trump administration this year placed a cap on arrivals, Ferguson said.

Pa Wah, a 41-year-old refugee from Myanmar, presented dishes at San Francisco's Hog Island Oyster Co. on Tuesday. She said she didn't consider a career in cooking until she moved to California in 2011 and got her green card.

Cooking was a means of survival at the Thailand refugee camp where she lived after escaping civil conflict in Myanmar as a child. Participating in the food festival showed her the challenges of running a restaurant, but also helped her realize she was capable of opening her own, she said.

Study: Altered poliovirus fights brain tumors

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

One of the world's most dreaded viruses has been turned into a treatment to fight deadly brain tumors. Survival was better than expected for patients in a small study who were given genetically modified poliovirus, which helped their bodies attack the cancer, doctors report.

It was the first human test of this and it didn't help most patients or improve median survival. But many who did respond seemed to have long-lasting benefit. About 21 percent were alive at three years, compared with 4 percent in a comparison group of previous brain tumor patients.

Similar survival trends have been seen with some other therapies that enlist the immune system against different types of cancer. None is sold yet for brain tumors.

"This is really a first step," and doctors were excited to see any survival benefit in a study testing safety, said one researcher, Duke University's Dr. Annick Desjardins.

Preliminary results were to be discussed Tuesday at a conference in Norway and published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Brain tumors called glioblastomas often recur after initial treatment and survival is usually less than a year.

Immunotherapy drugs like Keytruda help fight some cancers that spread to the brain but have not worked well for ones that start there.

Polio ravaged generations until a vaccine came out in the 1950s. The virus invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis. Doctors at Duke wanted to take advantage of the strong immune system response it spurs to try to fight cancer. With the help of the National Cancer Institute, they genetically modified poliovirus so it would not harm nerves but would still infect tumor cells.

The one-time treatment is dripped directly into the brain through a thin tube. Inside the tumor, the immune system recognizes the virus as foreign and mounts an attack.

The study tested the modified poliovirus on 61 patients whose tumors had recurred after initial treatments. Median survival was about a year, roughly the same as for a small group of similar patients given other brain tumor treatments at Duke. After two years, the poliovirus group started faring better.

Follow-up is continuing, but survival is estimated at 21 percent at two years, compared with 14 percent for the comparison group. At three years, survival was still 21 percent for the virus group, compared with 4 percent for the others.

Eight of the 35 patients who were treated more than two years ago were alive as of March, as were five out of 22 patients treated more than three years ago.

Stephanie Hopper, 27, of Greenville, S.C., was the first patient treated in the study, in May 2012, and it allowed her to finish college and become a nurse. Scans as recent as early June show no signs that the tumor is growing back, she said.

"I believe wholeheartedly that it was the cure for me," she said. Her only lasting symptom has been seizures, which medicines help control. "Most people wouldn't guess that I had brain cancer," she said.

The treatment causes a lot of brain inflammation, and two-thirds of patients had side effects. The most common were headaches, muscle weakness, seizure, trouble swallowing and altered thinking skills. Doctors stressed that these were due to the immune response in the brain and that no one got polio as a result of treatment.

Eight of the 35 patients who were treated more than two years ago were alive as of March, as were five out of 22 patients treated more than three years ago.

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OPINION

Does civility still have a chance?

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

You could argue that the Civil War began on May 22, 1856, when Rep. Preston Brooks, of South Carolina, entered the Senate chamber and beat Sen. Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts, nearly to death with his cane.

Brooks' casus belli was Sumner's freshly delivered anti-slavery speech, in which he called Sen. Stephen Douglas, of Illinois, a "noise-some, squat and nameless animal," and suggested that Sen. Andrew Butler, of South Carolina — Brooks' cousin — was in love with "the harlot, Slavery."

You could argue that Sumner was more than justified in using such uncivil language, given the enormity of the evil, slavery, that Douglas was willing to tolerate and Butler actively defended.

And you could argue that this bloody attack on the senator, if it catalyzed the war, only hastened the inevitable and necessary. What's perhaps most relevant today, however, is the fact that Brooks' attack exposed beyond denial the degree to which Americans of the 1850s lived in separate realities. Newspapers in the South not only justified what Brooks had done, they made him a hero; the Northern press did the same for Sumner.

Our broken polity has not yet produced one such climactic breakdown in civility, but we seem to be on our way there, and because so many people seem to relish that — the slogan "F--- civility" is gaining traction — it's important to be as clear as possible about both the causes and the potential consequences.

Civility spreads, as a democratic norm, on the basis of consensus. When most people involved in politics share broad goals

and a belief in the overall legitimacy of the political process, they are more likely to disagree, when they do, without being disagreeable.

This is more a matter of incentives than education and training. When democracy is about competing but not warring groups taking turns in power, it's in your self-interest to be civil because doing so sets a useful precedent — for you.

When civility prevails among the politically active, it spills over into calm and normality for everyone else; where you shop, or dine, or go to the movies doesn't have to be a political statement. Commercial establishments are, in that sense, safe spaces. Just ask any citizen of a former communist state in Europe what it was like when every trivial life choice carried political freight.

The broad political consensus that prevailed in the United States between the end of World War II and the end of the Cold War has broken down, and civility has broken down as well. This didn't happen by accident. The first turns in our downward spiral occurred in the early 1990s, when Newt Gingrich broke all kinds of taboos and norms en route to securing a Republican House majority.

By now, however, there's plenty of blame to go around. The dominant modus operandi of American politics, across the political spectrum, is to attack various elements of the postwar consensus as attributes not of a stable democracy, but of "a rigged system." Aspirants for elected office compete to delegitimize not only each other but also American-style democracy itself.

Of course, consensus can mask corruption. A middle-of-the-road two-party system built on the exclusion of certain groups, based on their racial or other iden-

tity, lacks legitimacy, even if a lot of people in power say otherwise.

Certainly the division and chaos that led to the Brooks-Sumner clash, and the Civil War, had been a long time coming, notwithstanding Congress' attempt to suppress it through various compromises and, for a time, a ban on even discussing — "agitating" was the word — the "slavery question" in the House.

What we have now is the unprecedented situation of the president of the United States not only attacking the legitimacy of the American political system, not only trashing the very idea of consensus, but also agitating every single question of policy, no matter how sensitive, in the most inflammatory words possible. On basic factual questions, he repeatedly asserts that two plus two equals five, and many seem to believe him.

He is doing all of this from a position of partisan dominance, or at least advantage, over the federal government and most of the states as well.

Those whom this approach inevitably disempowers and threatens now reach for their own unconventional weapons — ostracism, heckling, mobbing. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., has said of Trump's Cabinet, "Tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

You can understand why people act and speak this way without immunizing them against basic questions such as how far, exactly, they propose to go and what, exactly, they hope to accomplish.

Michelle Obama once declared, "When they go low, we go high." That might not work, either, but it does have one clear advantage: It is the only option that could, even at this late date, inspire an upward spiral.

Harley hitting the road is just the beginning

By BROOKE SUTHERLAND
Bloomberg

As one Trump administration trade policy backfires, another looks set to.

On Monday, Harley-Davidson said it would shift its primary production out of the U.S. to mitigate the impact of European Union tariffs targeting its motorcycles. Those penalties — which Harley-Davidson estimates may cost it as much as \$100 million annually — were in response to U.S. levies on steel and aluminum imported from the EU.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department is reportedly planning to aim a bazooka at a Chinese takeover problem that doesn't really exist anymore by declaring a national economic emergency. What's more troubling is a reported plan to crack down on exports of key U.S. technologies.

That Harley-Davidson is among the first out of the gate with a warning on higher costs is a black eye for President Donald Trump, who last year thanked the company for "building things in America." House Speaker Paul Ryan also traveled to a Harley-Davidson plant in his home state of Wisconsin to tout the benefits of the tax overhaul. EU lawmakers clearly knew what they were doing when they announced surgical counter-tariffs on American products. Keep an eye on manufacturers of blue jeans, peanut butter and bourbon.

Harley-Davidson wasn't perhaps the best exemplar of American manufacturing for either Trump or Ryan to hold up in the first place. It already operates facilities

in Brazil and India and is building a plant in Thailand, partly in response to Trump's decision to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Not for nothing, Harley-Davidson this year announced plans to close an assembly plant in Kansas City, Mo., and consolidate its operations with a Pennsylvania facility. A net total of 350 jobs will be eliminated in the U.S., the company said in May, and the shutdown is also triggering layoffs at suppliers.

Regardless, Harley-Davidson's situation is symbolic of the kind of disruption threatened by the Trump administration's protectionist agenda.

General Electric Co. is also reportedly exploring changes to its supply chain as it grapples with tariffs on parts that are produced in many of the same factories in China but shipped back to U.S. assembly facilities in places like Florence, S.C., and Waukegan, Wis. These ripple effects are important to keep in mind as Trump turns his attention to barring Chinese investments in the U.S. and countering the country's efforts to bolster its own industrial prowess, often on the back of American technology.

In many ways, the Trump administration is simply crystallizing an already tough attitude toward Chinese investment. Congress is concurrently advancing a bill to bolster the powers of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which reviews deals for national security risks.

After a spate of rejected takeovers and an unprecedented decision to recommend against Broadcom Inc.'s bid for Qualcomm Inc. board seats, one could argue

the committee's scrutiny has already been increased and expanded in practice. The number of U.S. takeovers by Chinese firms has slowed to a trickle, even as dealmaking more broadly booms. Investments and joint venture activity is also lagging.

What makes this push different is the potential invocation of a little-used economic emergency law that gives the administration broad jurisdiction to enact penalties. That makes the purported effort to prevent the export of technologies considered key to China's made-in-2025 initiatives all the more scary for U.S. companies. It's unclear exactly how this policy would work (Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pushed back at early reports), and it may be primarily aimed at further limiting the flow of technology to Chinese joint venture partners. But as we've seen with the steel and aluminum tariffs, the Trump administration isn't inclined to surgical strikes. A broad approach could put a wide swath of U.S. manufacturers at risk.

Aerospace is part of China's investment push, so what does that mean for Boeing Co. as it competes with Airbus SE for a share in what's set to be the world's biggest civil aviation market? Shares of the company were down about 3 percent as of midday in New York on Monday. Will Qualcomm be caught in a double whammy of being banned by Chinese regulators from buying NXP Semiconductors NV and banned by U.S. regulators from selling some semiconductor products in China?

The opportunities for painful side effects are numerous, and the blowback to U.S. companies is just starting.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman admits to role in crime spree

NJ NEWARK — A New Jersey woman admitted her role in a monthlong crime spree in two states, including an attempted bank robbery in Pennsylvania where she and another woman dressed as nuns.

Melisa Aquino Arias, 23, also pleaded guilty Friday to robbing a bank in Garfield, N.J., and conspiring to steal money from an ATM at a bank in Scotrun, Pa. The Passaic woman faces up to 41 years in prison.

The pleas came just weeks after her co-defendant, Swahilis Pedraza-Rodriguez, 19, of New Haven, Conn., pleaded guilty to the same offenses.

They were arrested about two weeks after the Garfield robbery when they went to a Teaneck bank and asked about opening an account. An employee recognized them as suspects in the Garfield robbery and called police.

Police chief sued over religious counseling

LA BATON ROUGE — A federal lawsuit claims a Louisiana city's elected police chief imposed his religious beliefs on officers and reprimanded them for missing mandatory religious counseling sessions.

Former police officer Patrick Marshall sued Port Allen Police Chief Esdrone Brown on Friday, claiming the chief threatened to fire or suspend him if he didn't attend the monthly counseling sessions with a chaplain.

Marshall also claims he was passed over for promotions given to less experienced officers who attended the same church as the chief.

Marshall resigned in November. His suit names Brown, the police department and city as defendants.

Bobcat euthanized after injuring man in attack

AZ BISBEE — Authorities euthanized a bobcat that attacked a Bisbee man.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office said the attack occurred Sunday morning as the man was walking his dog and saw the bobcat in the brush. The agency said that the bobcat started running toward the man, he let his dog go.

The bobcat lunged at the man and tore at his left arm.

The man's wife saw the dog had come home and got into her car to find her husband. The bobcat ran off when she arrived and honked her horn.

The man was treated at a hospital and was released. The bobcat was found about 12 hours after the attack and was euthanized.

Black firefighters open mentoring clubhouse

IL CHICAGO — A group of black Chicago firefighters have opened a new clubhouse to mentor youth in the city.

The Black Fire Brigade is the city's first clubhouse for black firefighters. The Chicago Sun-

THE CENSUS

\$23.9K

The amount the former payroll director for the Massachusetts State Police has pleaded guilty to stealing from the agency, Denise Ezekiel, 50, of Holbrook, pleaded guilty in Framingham District Court on Monday to one count of larceny over \$250. In addition to restitution, she has been ordered to perform 100 hours of community service. Prosecutors say she stole funds through fake travel reimbursements.



DAVE SCHERBENCO, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Blessings for boats

Father Daniel Toomey, of Our Lady of Victory Church, blesses one of more than 20 watercraft that floated by the dock owned by longtime Harveys Lake resident Ed Marszalek on Sunday in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Times reported former Chicago firefighters from around the country rallied behind the effort to buy and furnish the clubhouse. The building on the city's southwest side is meant to be a place for black firefighters within the department to find fellowship and support.

It also will be used to mentor black youths in the city and to prepare them to pass the firefighters exam.

People gathered for wedding escape fire

MD NORTH POTOMAC — Authorities said more than a dozen people who gathered for a wedding escaped from a fire that destroyed part of a Maryland home.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service spokesman Pete Piringer told The Washington Post the fire started about 2:30 a.m. Sunday at a recycling bin near the garage of the North Potomac home.

Piringer said 15 people who were together in the house for the wedding got out safely and went to another family home.

Piringer said the wedding was scheduled for later that day and many items for it were inside the home. He said he didn't know if the wedding was delayed.

Sisters meet after DNA test reveals relation

WA BREMERTON — Two long-lost sisters had no idea they share the same parents until an Ancestry.com DNA test revealed the fact six months ago.

The Kitsap Sun reported Beverly Meier, 78, flew into Seattle from Sacramento, Calif., last week to meet her sister, Joyce Risher, 83, for the first time.

Risher's granddaughter, Melissa Berry, discovered the two women had the same parents last summer after researching her family genealogy. Meier submitted her DNA to Ancestry.com about a year ago to learn where her ancestors came from.

Meier was adopted after birth, and her seven siblings had no idea she was born. The families confirmed the relation after messaging back and forth on Facebook.

The family held a reunion Saturday in Silverdale, Wash.

Ben & Jerry's unveils civil rights display

VT WATERBURY — Ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's has unveiled a new display at its Vermont factory dedicated to civil rights.

MyChamplainValley.com reported the display revealed at the Waterbury factory Friday honors Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 Poor People's Campaign.

The display was made in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Company co-founder Jerry Greenfield said the Poor People's Campaign is "as relevant today as it was 50 years ago."

Pilot escapes injury in hot-air balloon crash

MI HOWELL — A hot-air balloon pilot escaped injury when his balloon struck power lines and fell into a south-eastern Michigan lake.

WXYZ-TV reported the man was rescued Sunday morning by fishermen on Thompson Lake

around the Livingston County community of Howell. The pilot was taken to rescue crews at the shore.

Dave Park, who was fishing on the lake, told the station the basket and balloon were on fire after hitting the wires.

Officials with the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest said the crash is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

New law will protect hot-car Samaritans

KS TOPEKA — A new Kansas law goes into effect on July 1 that legally protects Good Samaritans who break into vehicles to save overheating children, animals and vulnerable adults.

The bill signed into law earlier this year states it would provide immunity from civil liability when a vehicle is damaged by a person trying to aid a "vulnerable person or domestic animal" in situations where there is "imminent danger of harm" and law enforcement has been notified.

From wire reports

WIRED WORLD

THEIR OWN DEVICES

Ewelina Cudzych, 13, checks her phone in her Chicago home earlier this month. Some parents are more vigilant than others about monitoring their children's smartphone use.

MARTHA IRVINE/AP

Do you really know what your child is doing on that smartphone?

By MARTHA IRVINE
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Ayril Miller was clearly annoyed. Her mother was sitting with her on the couch in their Chicago apartment, scrolling through the teen's contacts on social media.

"Who's this?" asked Jennea Bivens, aka Mom.

It's a friend of a friend, Ayril said. They haven't talked in a while.

"Delete it," her mom said.

The 13-year-old's eyes narrowed to a surly squint. "I hate this! I hate this! I hate this!" she shouted.

Yes, Bivens is one of "those moms," she said. She makes no apology.

Nor should she, said a retired cybercrimes detective who spoke to her and other parents in early June at Nathan Hale Elementary School, a K-8 public school in Chicago.

"There is no such thing as privacy for children," Rich Wistocki told them.

Other tech experts might disagree. But even they worry about the secret digital lives many teens are leading and the dreadful array of consequences — including harassment and occasional suicides — that can result.

Today's kids are meeting strangers, some of them adults, on a variety of apps. Teens are storing risqué photos in disguised vault apps and then trading those photos like baseball cards.

Some even have spare "burner" phones to avoid parental monitoring, or share passwords with friends who can post on their accounts when privileges are taken away.

David Coffey, a dad and tech expert from Cadillac, Mich., said he was floored when his two teens told him about some of the



Rich Wistocki, a retired cybercrime detective, speaks to parents at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Chicago earlier this month.

sneaky things their peers are doing, even in their small rural town.

"I gotta hand it to their creativity, but it's only enabled through technology," said Coffey, chief digital officer at IDShield, a company that helps customers fend off identity theft.

It's difficult to say how many kids are pushing digital boundaries this way. But academics, experts like Wistocki and Coffey, and many teens themselves say it's surprisingly common for kids to live online lives that are all but invisible to most parents.

Exposed to tablets and smartphones at an increasingly early age, kids are correspondingly savvy about using them and easily share tips with friends. Parents, by contrast, are both overwhelmed and often naive about what kids can do with sophisticated devices.

Wistocki often holds up a mobile phone and tells wide-eyed parents that giving a kid this "ominous device" is like handing over the keys to a new Mercedes and saying, "Sweetheart you can go to Vegas. You can drive to Texas, Florida, New York, wherever you want to go."

Such journeys can lead to ugly incidents, sometimes involving surprisingly young participants.

In January, two 12-year-olds were arrested in Panama City Beach, Fla., for cyberstalking that police said led to the suicide of a classmate named Gabriella Green, who'd been repeatedly bullied.

Last year in Naperville, a 16-year-old killed himself after police discovered that he'd recorded himself having sex with a classmate and then shared the recording with his hockey teammates. While searching his phone, they also found photos of other partially nude girls in a secret photo vault app disguised as a calculator.

And yet, Wistocki said, too often parents remain in denial with what he calls "NMK — not my kid."

Bivens uses an app called MMGuardian, one of several available, to manage and monitor her 13-year-old daughter's phone use. She turns off certain apps, sometimes as punishment, and monitors texts.

"It's a full-time job," Bivens conceded. "People laugh at me because I monitor her stuff. But I don't have the same problems as other people do."

A 2016 Pew Research Center survey found that only about half of parents said

they had ever checked their children's phone calls and text messages or even friended their kids on social media.

Tech experts agree that monitoring makes sense for younger kids. But Pam Wisniewski, a computer-science professor at the University of Central Florida, suggests a gradual loosening of the strings as teens prove they can be trusted.

"I'm almost to the point where I feel like the world would be better off without social media," said Wisniewski, who studies human computer interaction and adolescent online safety. "But I'm also a pragmatist."

Wistocki tells parents to offer their children the "Golden Ticket" — no punishment when they come to them about mistakes they've made online or help they need with a social media problem.

Ayril's mom is all for that. Recently, Ayril started a live livestream on Twitter and encountered a stranger who asked her to show her bare feet. It was a "creepy" request, the teen said, that caused her to end the connection quickly.

She had sidestepped a block on social media by using a tablet. But she did tell Mom what happened soon after.

Ayril still isn't happy that her mom is going through her contacts with her. The soon-to-be eighth-grader appreciates that "she cares about me," but hopes Mom will eventually "back up" a bit.

"When I'm in high school, that might get embarrassing sometimes, you know?" she said. "You need to learn your own — how do I put this? — discipline. You need to learn from your own mistakes."

If Mom doesn't give her that space, she said, she's always coming up with new tricks to get online secretly, just as her friends do.

And no, she won't share how.

WORLD

Vet protests pose challenge for China's Xi

By GERRY SHIH
Associated Press

BEIJING — On Chinese state television broadcasts, President Xi Jinping is often shown clad in battle fatigues inspecting troops, praising their service and hailing the People's Liberation Army as key to the country's rising global power.

But the nationalist drumbeat rings hollow for many retired soldiers who feel left behind, and they have taken to the streets in droves to complain about having to fend for themselves with meager pensions and little support. The unrest poses a delicate political challenge for Xi, who has made his affinity for the military one of the pillars of his folksy image.

"It can only irritate veterans that on the one hand they hear propaganda that China

is now a wealthy, powerful country that reveres its military, yet on the other hand they feel they have to fight for scraps," said Neil Diamant, a professor at Dickinson University and expert on Chinese veteran issues.

Such grievances came to a head last week when more than 1,000 retired soldiers, including locals and many others who rushed in from around the country, descended on local government offices in the eastern city of Zhenjiang, in Jiangsu province. For four days, they occupied a public plaza and a street, singing and chanting as they demanded answers over the alleged beating of a fellow veteran by government-hired thugs after he petitioned for better benefits, supporters said.

Police cleared the square in the early hours of Sunday with relatively little vio-

lence. But scenes of paramilitary police and armored vehicles lining Zhenjiang's streets further exacerbated the fraught relationship between the government and disgruntled veterans.

"What the Zhenjiang police did this week, clearing the scene by force, it's illegal," said Li Xiao, 63, a former artillery soldier who drove more than 120 miles Friday to Zhenjiang. He said he wanted to show support for the protesters from the sidelines. "History will be the judge," he said.

Although veterans have been petitioning for decades for improved pensions, jobs and medical care upon leaving the PLA, frustration has been bubbling in recent months.

Part of the problem is that local governments are ordered by the central government to provide greater compensation and

jobs for veterans but aren't given extra funding, Diamant said.

In March, Xi oversaw the establishment of a Ministry of Veterans Affairs to address longstanding grievances, but veterans have been frustrated by the lack of substantial change.

"We were delighted when the ministry was created; it was the only wish in our entire lives," said Li. "But because of their laziness, their incompetence, they haven't come up with a single substantial law or policy for us."

Li's account matched details gathered by a veteran activist from the central province of Hubei and an overseas-based activist originally from southwestern Sichuan, both of whom were in touch with protesters. The two spoke on condition of anonymity due to a fear of official retaliation.



TASSANEE VEJPOONGSA/AP

Relatives of missing boys hold fishing nets to symbolize fishing out lost spirits during a ritual at the entrance of a cave Tuesday in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand.

Flooding hampers efforts to rescue 12 Thai soccer team boys missing in cave

By TASSANEE VEJPOONGSA
Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand — Efforts to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach who have been missing inside a flooded cave in northern Thailand for three days hinge on pumping out water so that navy divers have headroom to operate, the first high-level Thai official to visit the site said Tuesday.

Interior Minister Ampong Padinda told reporters that navy divers leading the search are seriously handicapped by muddy water that fills some chambers of the cave to the ceiling. He said the divers could proceed only when enough water has been pumped out so there is breathing space between the water and the

ceiling. The divers will also soon start using special oxygen tanks that provide longer diving times, he said.

Ampong said the goal was to be able to "reach the kids," and that rescuers would be working night and day.

About a dozen navy divers and other rescuers re-entered the partially flooded cave on Tuesday morning to search for the boys, aged 11-16, who have been missing since their coach took them to the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex Saturday after a practice match.

Divers have been seeking a way forward through the chambers of the cave complex, but have been forced to suspend their search several times. Authorities

have also been seeking alternative ways in, using helicopters and search parties on foot to find holes that might exist in the ceilings of other parts of the cave.

A small glimmer of hope was raised Tuesday afternoon when explorers found fissures in two locations in the rock on the mountain under which the cave is located. Experts immediately ruled out one as being too small to be used as a "chimney" to gain access into the cave, and were still evaluating the other.

The boys and their 25-year-old coach entered the cave in Chiang Rai province late Saturday afternoon. A mother reported that her son did not return from soccer practice that day, setting off the search.

President says Iran in 'economic fight' with US

By AMIR VAHDAT
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Tuesday his country is in a "fight" with the U.S. a day after protesters angered by Iran's tanking economy confronted police in front of parliament.

In a televised speech, Rouhani blamed the U.S. for Iran's woes and said the U.S. is trying to damage the country by creating "an economic war."

"The U.S. cannot defeat our nation; our enemies are not able to get us to their knees," he said.

Rouhani's comments came after protesters angered by Iran's tanking economy confronted police in front of parliament Monday. It was the first such confrontation since similar demonstrations rocked the country at the start of the year.

The demonstration signaled widespread unease in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and restore sanctions on

the country.

It wasn't immediately clear who led Monday's protests. Iran's semi-official news agencies, Fars, ISNA and Tasnim, described the protests at the Grand Bazaar as erupting after the Iranian rial dropped to 90,000 to the dollar on the country's black market, despite government attempts to control the currency rate.

Videos posted to social media showed protesters at the bazaar heckling shopkeepers who refused to close.

A short time later, about 1.25 miles from the Grand Bazaar, videos shared by Iranians on social media appeared to show a crowd confronting police at parliament.

ISNA reported Tuesday that authorities detained many of the rioters.

Prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said the "main provocateurs" who planned the protest and threatened shopkeepers to close their stores were arrested. He did not elaborate on the number of people detained.

Philippine military: Troops mistakenly kill 6 policemen

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine troops mistakenly killed six policemen and wounded nine others they thought were communist guerrillas in the country's central hinterlands, military and police officials said.

Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, a regional military commander, said an army platoon that had been waging a counterinsurgency operation for six days stumbled upon a group of policemen in a remote village in Samar province and the two sides traded gunfire for about half an hour.

An investigation of the "unfor-

tunate incident" was under way, he said.

The communist rebellion, which has raged since 1969, has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead and has stunted economic development in the impoverished countryside. The military says a few thousand Maoist insurgents are continuing to wage the insurgency.

When he took power in 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte resumed peace talks with the guerrillas but canceled the negotiations last year to protest continued guerrilla attacks on troops and signed an order declaring the rebel group a terrorist organization.

FACES



Testing the limits

Director Debra Granik's film 'Leave No Trace' explores family, trauma, connection and understanding of others

By MARK OLSEN
Los Angeles Times

Filmmaker Debra Granik's ability to move between a granular specificity of intimate detail and a broader thematic sweep is on fine display in "Leave No Trace," which sits at 100 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes days from its limited release on Friday.

As the film opens, a father and his teenage daughter are attempting to live off the grid, camped out in a vast park on the edges of Portland, Ore. Ben Foster plays military veteran Will opposite newcomer Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie as his daughter Tom, and the duo find their careful, rugged existence disrupted after they are discovered and brought in by authorities, suddenly faced with a new struggle for survival.

Directed and co-written by Granik, the movie is adapted from Peter Rock's novel "My Abandonment," which was itself based on a true story. "Leave No Trace" also marks something of a return for Granik, who won the 2010 Sundance Grand Jury Prize with her previous fiction feature "Winter's Bone." That project went on to earn four Academy Award nominations including best picture and helped launch Jennifer Lawrence to stardom.

In the years since Granik released the 2014 documentary "Stray Dog," about a military veteran and biker, she has in many ways seemed herself off the grid, away from the hustle of the festival world and the ever-changing business of independent film. It seems she has returned at just the right time with a film that explores family, trauma, connection and understanding of others at a moment when those are on the minds of many.

"I think in some ways that is the balm of stories, of fables, of tales," she said. "It's the way we're wired. We have always needed to distill what we're going through and try to understand it by looking either backwards or forwards. And the hardest is to look in the now."

New Zealand-born Harcourt McKenzie, who had a small role in "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" and will soon be seen in Taika Waititi's "Jojo Rabbit," was well-served that comparisons to Lawrence, nominated for an Oscar for "Winter's Bone," would inevitably follow her breakout performance here.

"I had seen 'Winter's Bone' a long time before I auditioned for 'Leave No Trace,'" said McKenzie, now 17. "So that was definitely always in the back of my mind. And the thought did cross my mind

that Jennifer Lawrence was in Debra's last fiction movie, so I had to be amazing.

"But in preparing for interviews and the different festivals I also wanted to make it clear to the public and to myself that we're two very different people and very different actors," she added. "And although she's an incredible person—she's funny and dorky and cool and really talented—I'm not her. I love her, I think she's awesome, and definitely that comparison has been very present in this whole journey. (But) it's important to remember that we're individuals."

For Foster, who won a Spirit Award for his performance in "Hell or High Water," playing Will was appealing in part for the way in which it allowed him to continue the exploration of the lives of veterans as he has done with projects including "The Messenger," "Lone Survivor" and "Rampart."

Foster also forged a deep personal connection to the role, as his then fiancée, now wife, Laura Prepon was pregnant with their first child at the time of production and was able to travel with him to Oregon for the shoot.

"It felt like perfect timing," said Foster. "So I'd go to work imagining a life with my 16-year-old daughter and come home and feel my daughter kicking inside my wife's belly. It was a beautiful time, to ask questions of what it's going to be like, how am I going to be as a father, what's the best way to raise a being in this world."

Granik's deeply collaborative method in working with her actors meant that as the connection grew between Foster and Harcourt McKenzie as performers, they needed to say less and less with words. Granik even allowed them to strip out dialogue they agreed was unnecessary.

"She's the most intense director I've ever worked with," said Foster. "Watching her on set is like watching someone trying to save their own life. Everything matters. And not necessarily for where she thinks it should go, but she's hunting something authentic. That's a very different way of working."

The unvarnished emotional urgency of Granik's work feels particularly vital at the moment, and so with luck the gap between "Leave No Trace" and Granik's next projects will not be quite so long. She is working on another documentary and also preparing a fictional adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's nonfiction book "Nickel and Dimed."



Granik

Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie, left, and Ben Foster are a military veteran father and daughter trying to live off the grid outside of Portland, Ore., in "Leave No Trace."

BLECKER STREET/AP

Top Grammys categories will now allow 8 nominees

Associated Press

The Grammy Awards are extending the number of nominees in its top categories from five to eight.

The Recording Academy told its members in a letter released Tuesday that the nominee increase "will better reflect the large number of entries in these categories and allow voters greater flexibility when selecting this year's best recordings."

Album of the year, song of the year, record of the year and best new artist are the categories that will be affected. The change comes months after the Grammys were criticized for the lack of female nominees at this year's awards show.

Another change at the organization is with Neil Portnow, the president and CEO of The Recording Academy, who will step down next year. Portnow, who has led the academy since 2002, was criticized at this year's Grammys when he said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of female winners backstage. Only two female performers won awards during the live telecast.

Voting for the 2019 Grammys will take place in the fall and will include songs and albums released between Oct. 1, 2017, and Sept. 30, 2018.

Haddish, Nanjiani among Academy invitees

The organization that bestows the Oscars is continuing to lean into its promise to make its ranks more diverse by inviting a record 928 new members representing 59 countries to join including actors Tiffany Haddish, Kumail Nanjiani, Gina Rodriguez and "The Rider" filmmaker Chloe Zhao.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Monday that 49 percent of its invitees are female and 38 percent are people of color. Should all the invitees accept, overall membership would be 31 percent female and 16 percent people of color.

Notable music invitees include Kendrick Lamar ("Black Panther"), Melissa Etheridge ("An Inconvenient Truth") and Sufjan Stevens ("Call Me By Your Name").

Hip-hop stars Cardi B, Offset wed for months

A marriage certificate shows hip-hop stars Cardi B and the Migos' Offset were quietly married months ago.

Sunday night while accepting best group award at the BET



OMAR VEGA, INVISION/AP

Cardi B and Offset on Feb. 3.

Awards, Offset raised some eyebrows when he said, "I thank my wife, you should thank yours." Cardi B confirmed the marriage in a tweet Monday.

A marriage certificate shows that Cardi B and Offset—whose real names are Belcalis Almanzar and Kiari Cephus, respectively—were wed Sept. 20 in Atlanta.

Other news

■ Following his death, XXXTentacion has topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "Sad!" and his two albums have landed in the Top 10. Billboard reports that the rapper-singer's song, which originally peaked at No. 7, jumps from No. 52 to No. 1 this week, supplanting Drake's "Nice for What." The 20-year-old died last week after being shot in Florida.

■ Russell Crowe will portray Roger Ailes in a new Showtime series about the late Fox News Channel founder. The eight-episode limited series is based on the 2014 book "The Loudest Voice In The Room" by Gabriel Sherman.

■ Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees has received a knighthood at Buckingham Palace, and says he hopes his late brothers Robin and Maurice are proud of him. Gibb is the last surviving member of the fraternal trio whose falsetto harmonies and disco beats powered huge '70s hits including "How Deep Is Your Love" and "Stayin' Alive" and "Tragedy." Maurice died in 2003 and his twin Robin in 2012.

■ Heather Locklear has been arrested on suspicion of fighting with first responders for the second time this year. Ventura County Sheriff's Capt. Gary Kuredjian says Locklear, 56, appeared extremely intoxicated when deputies arrived at her southern California home after a domestic dispute call at about 11 p.m. Sunday. He says Locklear kicked one deputy and then called a paramedic who came to evaluate her.

■ Michael Ian Black's next book will have advice for his fellow men. The comedian and writer's "A Better Man" is scheduled to come out in the fall of 2019. Algonquin Books announced on Tuesday that Black will send an open letter to his teenage son that calls for "rethinking masculinity" and how to love and be loved.

■ A specialist in German military history and the two world wars has received a \$100,000 prize. Dennis Showalter is this year's winner of the Pulitzer Literature Award for lifetime achievement. The award was announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based Pritzker Military Museum & Library. Showalter's books include "Tannenberg: Clash of Empires 1914," "Frederick the Great: A Military History" and "Instrument of War: The German Army 1914-18."

■ Police and her lawyer say the 31-year-old ex-girlfriend of "Jersey Shore" TV show star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro is facing a misdemeanor domestic battery charge in Las Vegas after a week-end fight.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Harley to shift some production overseas

Company says move is due to retaliatory tariffs imposed by EU

By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Production of Harley-Davidson motorcycles sold in Europe will move from U.S. factories to facilities overseas, the Milwaukee-based company announced Monday, a consequence of the retaliatory tariffs the European Union is imposing on American exports in an escalating trade war with the Trump administration.

President Donald Trump has used the iconic American motorcycle maker as an example of a U.S. business harmed by trade barriers in other countries, but Harley-Davidson had warned that tariffs could negatively affect its sales.

Trump tweeted Monday that he's surprised that Harley-Davidson was first "to wave the White Flag" in the tariff dispute between the U.S. and the EU.

"Surprised" that Harley-Davidson, of all companies, would be the first to wave the White Flag, I fought hard for them and ultimately they will not pay tariffs selling into the E.U., which has hurt us badly on trade, down \$151 Billion. Taxes just a Harley excuse - be patient! #MAGA," Trump tweeted.

A Harley-Davidson spokesman said the company had nothing to say in response to Trump's tweet beyond its filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The EU on Friday began rolling out tariffs on American imports including bourbon, peanut butter



KEITH SRANOCIC/AP

Rows of motorcycles are displayed in the showroom at a Harley-Davidson dealership in Glenshaw, Pa. Harley-Davidson plans to move production of motorcycles sold in Europe to overseas facilities.

and orange juice. The EU tariffs on \$3.4 billion worth of U.S. products are in retaliation for duties the Trump administration is imposing on European steel and aluminum.

The company said in a regulatory filing Monday that EU tariffs on its motorcycles exported from the U.S. jumped between 6 and 31 percent, adding about \$2,200 per average motorcycle exported from the U.S. to the EU.

The impact on U.S. workers because of Harley-Davidson's decision was not immediately clear. Harley-Davidson declined interview requests Monday but said in prepared remarks that the company "maintains a strong commitment to U.S.-based manufacturing which is valued by riders globally."

Harley-Davidson Inc. sold almost 40,000 motorcycles in the EU last year, its second-largest market after the United States, ac-

cording to the company. The EU sales make up almost 16.4 percent of Harley-Davidson's worldwide sales. In the U.S., Harley-Davidson sold 147,972 motorcycles last year, according to company data.

"Increasing international production to alleviate the EU tariff burden is not the company's preference, but represents the only sustainable option to make its motorcycles accessible to customers in the EU and maintain a viable business in Europe," the company said in its prepared remarks.

Harley-Davidson said it "will not raise its prices to avert 'an immediate and lasting detrimental impact' on sales in Europe. It will instead absorb a significant amount of the cost in the near term. It anticipates the cost for the rest of the year to be approximately \$30 million to \$45 million.

Shifting the production overseas could take up to 18 months, the motorcycle maker said.

The company is already struggling with falling sales. In January, it said it would consolidate its Kansas City, Mo., plant into its York, Pa., facility. U.S. motorcycle sales peaked at more than 1.1 million in 2005 but then plummeted during the recession. It wasn't immediately known whether any other facilities would be consolidated.

"Harley-Davidson's announcement today is the latest slap in the face to the loyal, highly-skilled workforce that made Harley an iconic American brand," Robert Martinez Jr., president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said in a statement. The union represents Harley-Davidson workers in Milwaukee and the Kansas City and York plants.

The Trump administration has started fights with trading partners around the world, imposing tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, provoking retaliation from close U.S. allies including the EU, Canada, Mexico and Turkey.

And it has announced tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods — a tariff list that could swell to \$450 billion if Beijing refuses to back down and counterpunches with

retaliatory moves.

"More firms will follow Harley's lead and move production overseas," said Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist who studies trade. "Can't blame them. Many companies are being put in very difficult positions."

Lovely said Harley-Davidson and other companies face retaliatory tariffs in Europe and elsewhere if they try to export products. Trump's tariffs also raise costs on imported parts they need to manufacture in the United States.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 27)	\$1.1957
Dollar buys (June 27)	€0.8363
British pound (June 27)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (June 27)	107.60
South Korean won (June 27)	1,088.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3820
British pound	\$1.3242
Canada (Dollar)	1.3307
China (Yuan)	6.5811
Denmark (Krone)	6.3869
Egypt (Pound)	17.8699
Euro	\$1.1666/0.8572
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	278.72
Israel (Shekel)	3.6285
Japan (Yen)	109.77
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3024
Norway (Krone)	8.1238
Philippines (Peso)	53.69
Poland (Zloty)	3.72
Saudi (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3626
South Korea (Won)	1,126.20
Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	0.9895
Thailand (Baht)	33.02
Turkey (Lira)	4.6451

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issue. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

June 25, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-328.09
	24,252.80
Nasdaq composite	-160.81
	7,532.01
Standard & Poor's 500	-37.81
	2,717.07
Russell 2000	-28.07
	1,657.51

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federate funds market rate	0.90
3-month bill	1.90
30-year bond	3.03

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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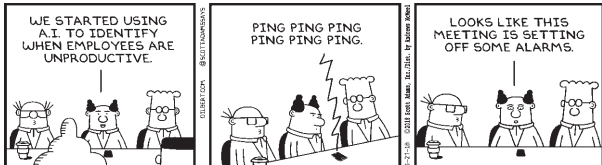
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Frazz



Dilbert



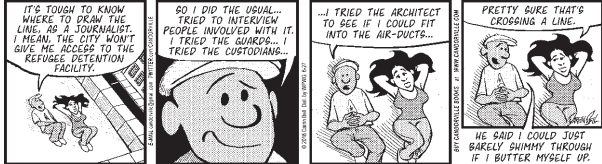
Pearls Before Swine



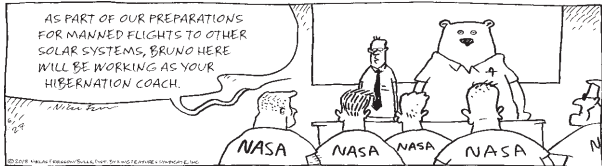
Non Sequitur



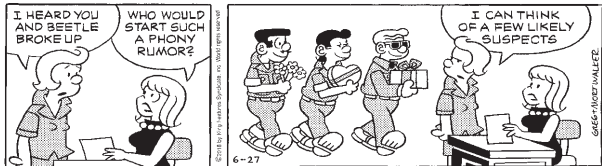
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
21			22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32			
33			34			35		36		
37			38		39		40			
41			42		43					
44			45		46		47	48	49	
50	51	52			53	54		55		
56					57			58		
59					60			61		

ACROSS

- 1 Enjoy Aspen
- 4 Peregrinate
- 8 Fly high
- 12 That follow
- 13 Lighten
- 14 Bassoon's kin
- 15 In the style of
- 16 For the most part
- 18 Courage
- 20 Flow out
- 21 Beanies
- 24 Relinquished
- 28 In a powerful way
- 32 Head, to Henri
- 33 — whim
- 34 Trusty horse
- 36 Prohibit
- 37 Battery fluid
- 39 With gusto
- 41 Yarns
- 43 "— Little
- 44 Bill's partner
- 46 Critic Roger
- 50 In an eerie way
- 55 Brit's restroom
- 56 Madcap
- 57 General Robert —
- 58 Scary cry
- 59 Hostels
- 60 Lose traction
- 61 911 responder

DOWN

- 1 Counterfeit
- 2 Narc's measure
- 3 Big-screen format
- 4 Echoes
- 5 Rowing tool
- 6 "— was saying ..."
- 7 Viral phenomenon
- 8 Fruity frozen treat
- 9 Kimono sash
- 10 ISP giant
- 11 Marina del —
- 17 "Scandal" network
- 19 German pronoun
- 22 Essence
- 23 Winter forecast
- 25 Mazar of "Younger"
- 26 And others (Lat.)
- 27 Say it isn't so
- 28 Castle defense
- 29 Bygone Peruvian
- 30 Author Sheehey
- 31 Wine-label datum
- 35 Not weepy
- 38 Rots
- 40 Bar bill
- 42 Junior
- 45 Singles
- 47 North Sea feeder
- 48 Leeway
- 49 Horn sound
- 50 Submachine gun
- 51 A Bobsey twin
- 52 Anderson Cooper's channel
- 53 Sort
- 54 Tiki bar necklace

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	E	L	L	A	L	T	A	F	A	N
P	L	E	A	C	O	E	N	A	M	O
F	O	O	T	F	A	U	L	T	N	O
				V	O	I	D		W	A
A	L	F	I	E		R	E	L		
L	I	R	A		S	H	E	R	I	F
S	E	I		S	C	A	M	P		R
O	V	E	R	E	A	S		B	E	N
			D	E	E	M		D	E	E
R	I	F	F		C	E	E	S		
A	R	I		F	O	O	D	F	I	G
G	I	S		I	O	T	A		D	R
A	S	H		T	H	E	M		E	R

6-27

CRYPTOQUIP

E I L N C M M R X U Q F V Y N ' M
Q M W Q P R I B B G T X N V X E N F
O I T R X U N X L C P Y B Q U I B
F Q M W N X M R Z R B R O G : B R I Z B Q
F R P Y R Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU WON'T STOP THAT WAGER TAKER'S CONSTANT COMPLAINING. THAT'S THE WAY THE BOOKIE GRUMBLES.


Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S

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Announcements 040

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Automotive 140

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MLB



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Detroit Tigers shortstop Jose Iglesias, left, and center fielder Leonys Martin wave an American flag after participating in a naturalization ceremony before Monday's game against the Athletics in Detroit.

Roundup

Tigers players become US citizens before loss to A's

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Tigers blew a three-run lead in the eighth inning and eventually lost on a home run in the ninth.

Still, this was a day Jose Iglesias and Leonys Martin may look back on fondly for years.

Before Monday's game against Oakland, the Tigers hosted a ceremony on the field in which a group of people were sworn in as American citizens. Iglesias and Martin, both natives of Cuba, were among them.

"I will never forget about my country, but it's amazing to be part of United States," said Martin, a 30-year-old outfielder. "Being able to do it here in the ballpark, right in front of the fans, that was really emotional."

Martin played for Cuba in the 2009 World Baseball Classic. After defecting, he received a \$15.5 million, five-year contract with the Texas Rangers in 2011. This is his first season with the Tigers.

Iglesias, a 28-year-old shortstop, also made his big league debut in 2011 with the Boston Red Sox. He was traded to the Tigers in 2013, and he can look back now at the daunting process of getting used to a new country.

"It's hard, man. You came. You face a new culture, face a new language, facing new food, new everything," Iglesias said before the game. "Still learning. I've been here for 10 years, and I'm still learning."

Jed Lowrie hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the top of the ninth inning to lift Oakland over Detroit on a historic day for Edwin Jackson.

Jackson allowed a run and six hits in six innings in his first appearance for the A's, tying a re-

cord by playing for his 13th major league team.

For a brief moment, it appeared Monday's game against the Athletics might unfold in storybook fashion — with Martin driving in Iglesias with the winning run. The score was tied at 1 in the seventh inning, and Martin hit a drive to center. Iglesias raced around from first, but he had to stop at third when the ball bounced over the wall for a double. He was thrown out at home when the next batter hit a grounder.

No matter. This was still a special day for Iglesias and Martin. "It's amazing," Iglesias said. "Become an American citizen on a ballpark, and with full uniform and everything. It's a blessing."

Rays 11, Nationals 0: Blake Snell took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, and Kevin Kiermaier hit a grand slam to lead host Tampa Bay's rout of Washington.

Yankees 4, Phillies 2: Jonathan Loaisiga took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, Aaron Judge ripped his 20th homer and the visiting Yankees snapped a three-game losing streak.

Dodgers 2, Cubs 1: Kenta Maeda pitched seven scoreless innings and Enrique Hernandez homered for the third time in two games for host Los Angeles.

Maeda (5-4) struck out nine and allowed three singles, helping the Dodgers improve to 16-5 in June.

Cardinals 4, Indians 0: Spot starter John Gant (2-2) pitched one-hit ball for a career-high seven innings and Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run double for host St. Louis.

It was the third consecutive win for the Cardinals and the 10,000th regular season victory for the franchise. St. Louis joined

the Braves, Cubs, Giants, Pirates and Dodgers among NL teams to reach the milestones.

Blue Jays 6, Astros 3: Toronto's Curtis Granderson homered in consecutive at-bats against Justin Verlander, and Randal Grichuk added a two-run shot and a huge defensive play for the visitors.

Granderson's leadoff shot in the fifth tied it at 3. He connected again with two out in the seventh, belting an opposite-field drive off Verlander (9-3).

Rangers 7, Padres 4: Shin-Soo Choo extended his career-best on-base streak to 38 games with three hits, including the tiebreaking RBI single in host Texas' strange five-run outburst.

Robinson Chirinos had two hits and two RBIs for Texas, which has won eight of its past nine games.

Mariners 5, Orioles 3: Dee Gordon's slick seventh-inning bunt was the lone hit in a two-run uprising that put Seattle ahead for good, and the Mariners beat the host Orioles for just their second win in eight games.

Marlins 9, Diamondbacks 5: Brian Anderson and Cameron Maybin each drove in two runs, helping host Miami spoil Shelby Miller's return to the mound after missing over a year for Tommy John surgery.

Pirates 6, Mets 4: Josh Bell hit a two-run homer, Gregory Polanco also went deep and the Pirates took advantage of some dreadful defense by the host Mets to snap a five-game losing streak.

Royals 2, Angels 0: Brad Keller pitched seven innings of two-hit ball, helping the host Royals beat the Angels in the makeup of a game that was frozen out in April.

Albies hits first walk-off homer

By GEORGE HENRY

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ozzie Albies turned to teammate Danny Santana in the dugout and told him he was about to end the game with one swing.

"It's time to go home right now," Albies said. "It's time to go deep. I went up there with one mentality, of hitting a home run."

Albies hit a tiebreaking homer in the 11th inning off Dylan Floro and the Atlanta Braves snapped the Cincinnati Reds' seven-game winning streak with a 5-4 victory on Monday night.

Albies knocked Floro's first pitch, a changeup, into the right-field seats. Albies doubled twice before hitting Atlanta's fifth game-ending homer this season. He's hitting .455 over his last seven games, and his 17 homers are tied for third-most in the NL.

"I'm just trying to hit the ball where it's pitched," he said. "Put a good swing on it."

Rain delayed the start of the game by 1 hour, 20 minutes, the 10th delay at SunTrust Park this season and the third in the last four games.

The NL East-leading Braves have won eight of 12. They improved to 2-7 in extra innings.

Luke Jackson (1-0), the seventh Atlanta pitcher, faced four batters in the 11th to earn the win. Floro (0-1) was the Reds' sixth pitcher.

Braves reliever Lucas Sims blew a two-run lead in the sixth, allowing three straight singles, issuing a bases-loaded walk and giving up an RBI groundout to pinch-hitter Adam Duval that made it 3-1.

Scott Schebler doubled to begin the seventh, advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt and made it 4-3

on Joey Votto's RBI groundout. The Braves tied it at 4-4 in the seventh on Santana's RBI double.

Atlanta starter Mike Foltynewicz, reinstated from the disabled list with right triceps tightness, allowed one run, one hit and four walks in five innings. He struck out four while throwing 91 pitches.

Foltynewicz gave up his first hit to Schebler, whose 10th homer cut the lead to 2-1 in the fifth. Over his last eight starts, Foltynewicz has a 0.96 ERA.

"He had a really fresh arm and just pounded the zone on us and made us work," Schebler said. "We made him work as well. We weren't going down easy. We were grinding out at-bats and made him get out of the game probably a lot quicker than he wanted to."

Reds starter Tyler Mahle loaded the bases with no out in the fifth before a groundout put the Braves up 3-1. Mahle gave up hits, three runs and four walks with five strikeouts in five innings.

Cincinnati was coming off a four-game home sweep of the Chicago Cubs and had won 10 of 12, but the Reds are still stuck in last place in the NL Central, five games out of fourth place.

"Schebler gave us a chance a couple of times," interim Reds manager Jim Riggleman said. "Tough one to lose, but we did a lot of good things again, and if we play like that we're going to win a lot of ballgames."

Moving up: Markakis, the NL hits leader, singled in the third to reach 100 hits. He leads the league in doubles and multi-hit games and ranks second to Cincinnati's Scooter Gennett in batting average. Markakis went 2-for-4.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Braves second baseman Ozzie Albies is mobbed by his teammates Monday after hitting a walk-off home run in the 11th inning of a game against the Cincinnati Reds in Atlanta.

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Dwane Casey was received the award for Coach of the Year after guiding the Toronto Raptors to the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference and a team-record 59 victories. But he was fired after the Raptors were swept by Cleveland in the second round of the playoffs. He's since been hired by Detroit.

First: Casey named top coach despite being let go by Raptors

FROM BACK PAGE

"I'm not going to get emotional," he said from behind dark sunglasses. "She's my backbone in good times and bad times."

Harden received a total of 965 points and 86 first-place votes. James finished second with 738 points and 15 first-place votes, while Davis was third with 445 points and no first-place votes.

The Rockets had another winner in Daryl Morey, who was honored as Executive of the Year. In other awards, Ben Simmons of the Philadelphia 76ers won Rookie of the Year.

The guard averaged 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, joining Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson as the only rookies to post those numbers in a season.

Simmons helped Philadelphia to a 52-30 record, including ending the season with a 16-game winning streak.

He beat out finalists Donovan Mitchell of Utah and Jayson Tatum of Boston.

Guard Victor Oladipo of the Indiana Pacers earned Most Improved Player.

He averaged 23.1 points in his first season with the Pacers while nabbing his first All-Star berth. He also led the league in steals for the first time.

The Defensive Player of the Year went to center Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz.

He was the leading vote-getter for the league's All-Defensive first team while anchoring a Jazz defense that ranked second in the NBA in defensive rating.

Lou Williams of the Los Angeles Clippers took Sixth Man honors.

The guard became the first player to average at least 20 points for the first time in his 13th season or later. He led the league in fourth-quarter points and scoring average.

Dwane Casey was chosen Coach of the Year for his work with the Toronto Raptors, who fired him last month. He has since become coach of the Detroit Pistons.

"Can't look in the rear view mirror," Casey said backstage. "Winston Churchill said success is measured by failure, failure, and then come back with enthusiasm, and that's what I've done."

Casey led the Raptors to the No. 1 seed in the East for the first time in franchise history after winning a team-record 59 games. Casey coached the East in the All-Star Game for the first time.

Robertson received the Lifetime Achievement Award from presenters Charles Barkley and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

NBA awards winners

Winners of the 2017-18 NBA awards, presented Monday in Los Angeles:

Most Valuable Player — James Harden, Houston
Coach of the Year — Dwane Casey, Toronto
Rookie of the Year — Ben Simmons, Philadelphia
Most Improved Player — Victor Oladipo, Indiana
Basketball Executive of the Year — Daryl Morey, Houston

Defensive Player of the Year — Rudy Gobert, Utah
Sixth Man Award — Lou Williams, L.A. Clippers
Sportsmanship Award — Kemba Walker, Charlotte
Hustle Award — Amir Johnson, Philadelphia
Two-Way-Stakes Teammate of the Year — Jamal Crawford, Minnesota

Lifetime Achievement Award — Oscar Robertson
Super Strong Award — Dikembe Mutombo
All-NBA First Team — Anthony Davis, New Orleans; Kevin Durant, Golden State; James Harden, Houston; LeBron James, Cleveland; Damian Lillard, Portland.
All-Rookie Team — Kyle Kuzma, L.A. Lakers; Lauri Markkanen, Chicago; Donovan Mitchell, Utah; Ben Simmons, Philadelphia; Jayson Tatum, Boston.

All-Defensive Team — Rudy Gobert, Utah; Anthony Davis, New Orleans; Victor Oladipo, Indiana; Jrue Holiday, New Orleans; Robert Covington, Philadelphia.
NBA Cares Community Assist Award — Kevin Durant, Golden State

Fan-voted awards
Play of the Year — Clutch Shot of the Year, Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James.

Best Style — Russell Westbrook, Oklahoma City
Dunk of the Year — Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee

Clutch Shot of the Year — LeBron James, Cleveland
Assist of the Year — LeBron James, Cleveland
Block of the Year — Anthony Davis, New Orleans
Handle of the Year — Kyrie Irving, Boston

— Associated Press

Robertson is the career leader in triple-doubles and was the first player to average one for a season. His antitrust case against the NBA also ushered in free agency for players, which Robertson said was his most important assist.

Backstage, Robertson commended the activism of today's players, although he wondered why more white athletes aren't speaking out.

"The only thing that really bothers me is where are the white athletes when this is happening?" he said. "This is not a black athlete problem. You see injustice in the world. It's all around."

Robertson went on to say he hopes "the whites and the blacks get together, even with the football," a reference to NFL players who have taken a knee or sat in silence during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality.

Former NBA player Dikembe Mutombo received the Sager Strong Award, named for the late Turner Sports broadcaster. He donned a garish sports coat similar to what Craig Sager always wore.

The Hustle Award went to Amir Johnson of the 76ers.

Briefly

Washington St. QB suffered CTE

Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — The family of the Washington State football player who died of suicide in January said the 21-year-old quarterback had extensive brain damage that's been linked to concussions from playing the sport.

Tyler Hilinski was found dead in his apartment with a gunshot wound and a suicide note on Jan. 16.

Mark and Kym Hilinski told NBC's "Today" show on Tuesday that the Mayo Clinic requested to do an autopsy of their son's brain. The interview comes alongside the debut of a new Sports Illustrated documentary about the family's search for answers.

The family in those interviews said the autopsy results indicated that their son had signs of extensive brain damage known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, which has been found in hundreds of former NFL players.

The sophomore quarterback was last seen alive the same day, when he dropped a teammate off on campus for morning class. Police said the car belonged to a teammate and that Hilinski took it without the teammate's knowledge on or before Jan. 12.

Murray still hasn't said if he'll play Wimbledon

EASTBOURNE, England — After his first win in nearly a year, Andy Murray wasn't ready to commit to playing at Wimbledon next week.

Murray beat Stan Wawrinka 6-1, 6-3 at the Eastbourne International on Monday in the second match of his comeback from long-term hip problems.

Murray returned last week at the Queen's Club and lost to Nick Kyrgios in the first round.

He said if he believes his body can handle Grand Slam best-of-five-set matches, then he'll play at Wimbledon, where he's won twice.

"If I don't, then obviously I won't play," Murray said. "I'm coming back from a very serious injury which is not easy."

"I'm not putting any pressure on myself to make that decision after one match here or two matches, because I don't need to. I can decide when I want."

Daly withdraws from US Senior Open

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — John Daly has withdrawn from the U.S. Senior Open, citing a deteriorating knee condition and blaming the USGA for not allowing him to use a golf cart.

The 52-year-old two-time major champion went on Twitter

to say the USGA turned down his request to use a golf cart, which could have been allowed under rules that conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The USGA responded, saying it offered Daly a chance to provide additional information about his condition. Daly said he never received such a request.

Golf carts generally are forbidden in tournament play. In 2001, Casey Martin, who suffers from a rare circulatory condition, successfully sued the PGA Tour to use a cart in a tournament.

Daly, who withdrew from a tournament last October after his knee collapsed, finished seventh at last week's Champions Tour event.

Cubs' Darvish feels soreness in triceps

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Chicago Cubs right-hander Yu Darvish felt soreness in his troubled triceps tendon after a minor league rehabilitation start Monday night.

Darvish hasn't pitched in the majors since May 20 because of right triceps tendinitis. The Japanese ace threw five sharp innings for Class A South Bend.

"In the triceps there's likeness to get more fatigue there, especially if there's a long gap between innings," Darvish said through a translator while wearing ice packs on his right shoulder and right elbow. "That's when I feel fatigue there. Not necessarily pain, but I can't for sure say there is something going on in the tricep zone."

Darvish, who pitched a simulated game last week in Chicago, was set to rejoin the Cubs in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Rudy won't play in Germany's next match

KAZAN, Russia — Germany midfielder Sebastian Rudy has been ruled out of the team's final group game against South Korea at the World Cup after suffering multiple fractures to his nose.

Coach Joachim Low said Tuesday on the eve of the match that Rudy hadn't recovered after undergoing surgery.

Rudy picked up the injury during his team's 2-1 win over Sweden last week. He was forced to leave the pitch after a Swedish player's boot slammed into his nose as he was on the ground.

Low said it wouldn't make sense to make Rudy play with a protective mask.

"It's two or three days too early," he said.

The German coach will also be without defender Jeremie Boateng, who is suspended after getting sent off against Sweden.

WORLD CUP



Petr David Josek/AP

Brazil's Philippe Coutinho, left, celebrates scoring his side's opening goal with Neymar, top, and teammates during a win over Costa Rica on Friday.

Brazil needs strong outing

By MAURICIO SAVARESE
Associated Press

Already smarting after struggling through its opening two World Cup matches, Brazil needs to improve.

Luckily, the five-time champions head into their final group match against Serbia at Spartak Stadium in Moscow on Wednesday knowing a draw is enough to advance to the round of 16.

Brazil opened the tournament with a 1-1 draw against Switzerland,

and then got two injury-time goals to pull out a 2-0 victory over Costa Rica.

That second match was a rollercoaster, and Neymar finished it by dropping to his knees and sobbing on the field at the end. He has since defended the tears, which were of both relief and frustration, and insisted he is determined to lead Brazil to success at this year's World Cup.

But anything short of a strong outing against Serbia could put the squad on edge. Brazil has been disappointed with its play so far, and Neymar and Philippe Coutinho already have yellow cards.

Injuries are also an issue. Douglas Costa, who came on after the break against Costa Rica and made Brazil play more aggressive, has a right thigh injury and won't play. Willian could start instead.

Paulinho has also not been his strong self, and the midfielder could lose his place in the starting lineup.

Brazil coach Tite didn't offer many answers. His options include midfielders Fernandinho and Renato Augusto, but he could play strikers Gabriel Jesus and Roberto Firmino together. If he went with that lineup, Coutinho would replace Paulinho.

Brazil has also recently trained with defender Marquinhos as a right back because starter Danilo is injured and replacement Fagner has little international experience.

Target Man: Coutinho scored two of Brazil's three goals in the tournament, while Neymar has only scored once.

Over the last 10 matches, Coutinho has outplayed Neymar. The Barcelona midfielder has scored nine goals in the last 10 matches, more than Neymar's five.

In or out

Group E: Brazil and Switzerland have four points apiece, Serbia has three, and any of them could grab one of the group's two spots in the knockout stage. Serbia meets Brazil on Wednesday, likely needing a win. Switzerland plays Costa Rica at the same time. Costa Rica has been eliminated.

Group F: Mexico leads with six points but isn't safe yet. If defending champion Germany defeats South Korea on Wednesday and Sweden simultaneously tops Mexico, three teams would finish with six points, sending it to tiebreakers that start with the best goal differential. If Mexico and South Korea win, Mexico would top the group and the other three teams would be equal on three points.

Coutinho has also outscored Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku and Egypt's Mohamed Salah.

Serbian miracle: Serbian morale was affected by a 2-1 loss to Switzerland, and midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic knows the squad has a tough match against Brazil.

"Yes, we definitely need a miracle. That is what can make us beat Brazil and get through to the next stage," he said. "I always say that those that believe in miracles can make them happen. We are Serbian, nothing is impossible. With a bit of luck, we can produce a miracle."

Serbia beat Costa Rica 1-0 in its opening game, and Milinkovic-Savic said Brazil has shortcomings in the defense.

"Costa Rica and Switzerland showed they could face Brazil," Milinkovic-Savic said. "I believe that, too, and I believe that we will knock them down."

Gritty Germany eyes next round

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — This Mannschaft is by no means perfect, but at least it can fight, and that's an essential asset to win a World Cup.

Germany's 2-1 win over Sweden could turn out to be the cornerstone in the defending champions' Russian campaign, a memorable event that brought players together following their disastrous start.

After its opening loss to Mexico, Germany got back on track with a stoppage-time winner from Toni Kroos against Sweden, and now needs to finish the job against South Korea to avoid being eliminated in the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1938.

In a wide-open Group F topped by Mexico with six points, the Germans have their fate in their own hands again. They will qualify if they beat South Korea at Kazan Arena by at least two goals.

"Now it's all about beating South Korea," Kroos said, urging his teammates not to get carried away by the euphoria and excitement that enveloped the German squad after the Sweden game.

Despite the turnaround, there are many inadequacies that need to be addressed by Germany coach Joachim Low, the 57-year-old final game. Julian Draxler and Thomas Mueller were mediocre up front against Sweden, and the pairing of Jerome Boateng and Antonio Rudiger was shaky during a nerve-racking contest that took an emotional toll on Germany.

The improbable win, however, boosted the players' confidence ahead of a third World Cup encounter with 57th-ranked South Korea. Germany won their previous two matches at the tournament, in 1994 and 2002.

"We came through against the odds. This could be a turning point for us in this tournament," Mueller said.

Germany's comeback also gave more leeway to Low, who was slammed for being too conservative in his choices and relying too much on his old guard of world champions.

Low made four changes that paid off against Sweden — notably dropping playmaker Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira to make room for Marco Reus, Jonas Hector, Sebastian Rudy and Rudiger. Although Germany remained too vulnerable to counterattacks, the changes allowed for a better-balanced team that fought hard until the end and overcame Boateng being sent off with eight minutes left.

Rudy suffered a broken nose against Sweden, while Boateng is suspended for the South Korea game, meaning a new will be forced to make more changes. But he has a deep bench, another

trump card at the month-long tournament.

Center back Mats Hummels could return after missing the previous match with a neck injury and partner with Rudiger in the heart of the defense.

Neuer the leader: Having recovered from the left foot fracture that threatened to rule him out of the tournament, Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has been a leader off and on the pitch.

Neuer was at his best against Sweden, making a decisive save to deny an effort from Marcus Berggren just before halftime and, as usual, igniting quick attacking moves from the back with his long throws and pinpoint kicks. Neuer was also one of the main speakers during the crisis meeting that followed the loss against Mexico.

Brandt an option: Julian Brandt, the 22-year-old Bayer Leverkusen winger, is one of the most talented young German players and was included on Loew's World Cup squad at the expense of Leroy Sané. He has been living up to expectations in Russia with two solid appearances as a substitute. He came on late against Sweden and hit the woodwork. It would be surprising if he does not get another chance against South Korea.

South Korea captain out: With its chances of qualification already slim, South Korea took a blow when captain Ki Sung-yueng was ruled out with a left calf injury.

The Swansea midfielder is South Korea's most experienced player, with 104 appearances with the national team.

South Korea has lost its past four World Cup matches, but there is still a glimmer of hope. The team could advance if it beats the four-time world champions and Sweden loses to Mexico.



MICHAEL PROBST/AP

Germany's Joshua Kimmich plays for a header during the Group F match against Sweden on Saturday. The defending champs can advance to the knockout round with a win over South Korea on Wednesday.

Live on AFN

Group F
South Korea vs. Germany
AFN-Sports2
4 p.m. Wednesday CET
11 p.m. Wednesday JKT

Group F
Mexico vs. Sweden
AFN-Sports
4 p.m. Wednesday CET
11 p.m. Wednesday JKT

Group E
Serbia vs. Brazil
AFN-Sports
8 p.m. Wednesday CET
3 a.m. Thursday JKT

Group E
Switzerland vs. Costa Rica
AFN-Sports2
8 p.m. Wednesday CET
3 a.m. Thursday JKT

WORLD CUP



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

Referee Enrique Caceres gestures for a video review during the Group B match between Iran and Portugal on Monday. Video reviews late in both Group B matches were critical to the outcomes and determined which teams advanced to the next round.

Group B matches turn on late video reviews

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Fans in stadiums about 1,000 miles apart — and millions watching on multiple screens around the globe — were transfixed on a studio outside Moscow where World Cup fates turned on nearly simultaneous video replay decisions.

Iago Aspas had scored in the first minute of stoppage time Monday night, pulling Spain into a 2-2 tie with Morocco in Kaliningrad, but a referee's assistant ruled he was offside. If the goal did not count, Spain would be in second place behind Portugal.

Referee Ravshan Irmatov went to the monitor on the side of the field to view the image put on the screen by the control room at the International Broadcast Center in Krasnogorsk.

At the same moment, referee Enrique Caceres went to view his monitor in Saransk to determine whether Portuguese defender Cedric committed a handball when Iran's Sardar Azmoun headed the ball down. Portugal was leading 1-0, past 90 minutes and into stoppage time.

If Portugal won, it would finish first. If Iran were able to score on the penalty kick and somehow score again while Morocco held on to beat Spain, Iran would have shockingly won the group, Portugal would finish second and Spain's World Cup would be over.

Iramatov reversed the call, pointing to the center circle to signal goal, and Spain got the 2-2 draw. Caceres gestured to the spot for the record 20th penalty kick of the World Cup, and Karim Ansarifard converted in the third minute of stoppage time to give Iran a 1-1 draw.

When final whistles blew, Spain and Portugal — which drew 3-3 earlier in the tournament — were tied again atop Group B, but Spain got the top seed on the second tiebreaker, total goals, 6-5.

Iran coach Carlos Queiroz was incensed after a decision that followed a video review not to send off Cristiano Ronaldo. The five-time FIFA Player of the Year instead was given a yellow card after an arm of

the Portuguese star hit Iranian defender Morteza Pouraliganji in the face in the 82nd minute.

Early in the second half, a video review led to a penalty kick for Portugal when Saïd Ezatollahi was judged to have fouled Ronaldo. There was minimal contact and Caceres originally waved off a foul. Ronaldo's penalty kick was saved by goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Queiroz threw his jacket when the penalty kick was given. Queiroz coached his native Portugal from 2008-10 and has led Iran since 2011. He complained that Ronaldo gets star treatment.

"The reality is you stop the game too far. There is an elbow — elbow is red card in the rules, and the rules doesn't say if it is [Lionel] Messi or Ronaldo."

Queiroz railed against the way video review was used.

"It's a red card. So the question is it for me, as I said before, it is not about the refs, it's about the attitude and the bravery and the character," he said. "The decisions, they must be clear for everybody, for the people."

Soccer's rules-making body started allowing experiments with video review last year, and FIFA adopted it for the World Cup for the first time.

"Players make mistakes, coaches make mistakes and referees make mistakes," Queiroz said. "But now you have one system that costs a fortune — a fortune. High technology, five, six people inside, whatever, nobody takes responsibilities. The referees on the pitch, they are ... washing their hands. They cover themselves with decisions because the guys are upstairs. The guys upstairs they don't know exactly what they should do. Stop it."

Not surprisingly, Portugal coach Fernando Santos agreed that Ronaldo did not deserve red.

"It seemed like a normal thing in the match and the referee did what he had to do," Santos said. "I'd have to watch it again, but I think the VAR did its job, and that's what we have to accept."

Ronaldo misses penalty, costing Portugal top spot

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

SARANSK, Russia — Cristiano Ronaldo's missed penalty cost Portugal first place in its World Cup group.

It could have been worse if not for Ricardo Quaresma, who started for the first time in the tournament and scored his maiden World Cup goal with a shot that had about as much flair as any in the tournament.

Portugal finished second in Group B after a 1-1 draw with Iran on Monday. The 2016 European champions will next face Uruguay on Saturday in the round of 16.

"The conclusion and the most important thing is we're going to continue playing," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "We had a strong opponent."

Quaresma became the only player other than Ronaldo to score for the Portuguese in three games in Russia. The 34-year-old midfielder also became Portugal's oldest scorer in World Cup play by hitting a curling shot from the edge of the penalty area that went beyond the reach of diving Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand.

Ronaldo — who had scored all four Portugal goals in its first two games of Group B play — was denied on his penalty by Beiranvand's dive toward the right post in the second half.

"We were on top of the game until the penalty, and we didn't make it. It wasn't perfect, but that's football," Santos said. "We did what was expected and now we have to settle down and think about Uruguay."

Karim Ansarifard scored a late penalty for Iran, which needed to win to advance, but couldn't break through a second time despite a furious charge in the waning minutes. The Mordovia arena momentarily vibrated from the sound of Iran fans' roars when Mehdi Taremi hit the side of the net from 6 yards out.

The penalty against Portugal was awarded after a video review showed a handball in the area. But although Iran coach Carlos Queiroz benefited from that review, he railed against the system for the second day in a row. In particular, he cited a decision to give Ronaldo a yellow card after his elbow struck Iran defender Morteza Pouraliganji in the face in the second half.

"Elbow is a red card in the rules," Queiroz asserted in English, adding that there are no written exceptions for players named Ronaldo or Lionel Messi. "The decisions, they must be clear for everybody, for the people. Everybody agrees that VAR is not going well. That's the reality. There are a lot of complaints."

Spain won Group B after its 2-2 draw with Morocco. Both Spain and Portugal had a goal difference of plus-1, but Spain scored six goals in its three group matches while Portugal had five.

Spain will next face host Russia on Sunday in Moscow.

Quaresma has nine international goals in 78 previous appearances for Portugal. But his goal against Iran had all appeal of a Ronaldo strike. He sent the shot with the outside of his right foot spinning into the far corner near the end of the first half.

Draw gives Spain first place

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

KALININGRAD, Russia — It took a video review of an injury-time equalizer to give Spain first place in its World Cup group.

Spain substitute Iago Aspas scored the late goal Monday in a 2-2 draw with Morocco. His clever deflection off a cross from Dani Carvajal was initially disallowed for offside, but the video assistant referee overruled the call at Kaliningrad Stadium.

"Until the last minute, we weren't sure who was going to finish first and second," Spain coach Fernando Hierro said. "And I have to say we were lucky to finish first."

The decision set off a touchline melee among players from both sides.

Hierro took over as Spain coach on the eve of the World Cup when Julen Lopetegui was fired after taking the job at Real Madrid. Now he is heading to the World Cup's knockout stage.

"Obviously we can improve," Hierro said. "Five goals in three matches, that is not the way forward. That is what I have told my players, and they understand that."

A rare mix-up by Andres Iniesta and Sergio Ramos gifted Morocco its first goal of the World Cup, with Khalid Boutaib pouncing on the loose ball and scoring in the 16th minute. Iniesta made amends five minutes later by setting up Ico at the other end with a clever cut back pass to bring Spain level at halftime.

Youssef En Nesyri then headed in a goal in the 81st minute to give already-eliminated Morocco hope of a victory.

With Portugal also drawing with Iran, Spain progressed as group winner because it had more goals.

"We haven't really won anything yet.



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

Spain's Iago Aspas scores past Morocco goalkeeper Monir El Kajoui on Monday. Aspas was initially ruled offside, but the goal was allowed on video review.

It's been a very tough match," Ico said. "Maybe we weren't focused from the very beginning. We needed them to score on us to force us to react."

Spain may be through and is now on a 23-match unbeaten run, but it was far from convincing in group play and again displayed defensive frailties to concede twice against a team that hadn't scored a goal in its two previous group matches.

While Spain controlled the game against Morocco with 68 percent of possession, Ico thinks that Spain can do better.

"Maybe what we're missing to better control the game is more ball possession," the man of the match said. "Maybe that's what's missing. And that's normally something that we do much better."

WORLD CUP



Peru's Anderson Santamaría, left, and Australia's Trent Sainsbury jump for the ball during a Group C game Tuesday in Sochi, Russia.

Scoreboard

First round									
x-advanced to second round									
GROUP A									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Uruguay	3	0	0	5	0	9			
x-Russia	2	1	0	8	4	6			
Saudi Arabia	1	0	2	7	6	3			
Egypt	0	2	2	6	0	0			
Thursday, June 14									
Russia 5, Saudi Arabia 0									
Friday, June 15									
Uruguay 1, Egypt 0									
Tuesday, June 19									
Russia 3, Egypt 1									
Wednesday, June 20									
Uruguay 1, Saudi Arabia 0									
Monday, June 25									
Uruguay 3, Russia 0									
Saudi Arabia 2, Egypt 0									
GROUP B									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Spain	1	2	0	5	4	5			
x-Portugal	1	1	1	5	4	4			
Iran	1	1	1	4	5	4			
Morocco	0	1	2	2	4	1			
Friday, June 15									
Iran 1, Morocco 0									
Portugal 3, Spain 3									
Wednesday, June 20									
Portugal 1, Morocco 0									
Monday, June 25									
Spain 2, Morocco 0									
Iran 1, Portugal 1									
GROUP C									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
x-France	2	1	0	3	1	7			
x-Denmark	2	1	0	3	3	7			
Peru	1	0	2	2	3	3			
Australia	0	1	2	2	5	1			
Saturday, June 16									
France 2, Australia 1									
Denmark 1, Peru 0									
Thursday, June 21									
France 1, Australia 1									
Tuesday, June 26									
Peru 2, Australia 0									
At Moscow									
Denmark 0, France 0									
GROUP D									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Croatia	2	0	0	5	0	6			
Nigeria	1	0	1	1	2	3			
Iceland	0	1	1	1	3	1			
Argentina	0	1	1	1	4	1			
Saturday, June 16									
Argentina 1, Iceland 1									
Croatia 2, Nigeria 0									
Thursday, June 21									
Croatia 3, Argentina 0									
Friday, June 22									
Nigeria 2, Iceland 0									
Tuesday, June 26									
At St. Petersburg, Russia									
Nigeria 1, Argentina 1									
At Rostov-on-Don, Russia									
Iceland vs. Croatia									
GROUP E									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Brazil	1	1	0	3	1	4			
Switzerland	1	0	1	3	2	3			
Serbia	1	0	1	2	3	3			
Costa Rica	0	2	0	0	3	0			
Sunday, June 17									
Serbia 1, Costa Rica 0									
Brazil 1, Switzerland 1									
Friday, June 22									
Brazil 2, Costa Rica 0									
Switzerland 2, Serbia 1									
Wednesday, June 27									
At Moscow									
Serbia vs. Brazil									
At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia									
Switzerland vs. Costa Rica									
GROUP F									
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Mexico	2	0	0	3	1	6			
Germany	1	0	1	3	1	3			
Sweden	1	0	1	2	2	3			
South Korea	0	2	1	1	3	0			
Sunday, June 17									
Mexico 1, Germany 0									
Monday, June 18									
Sweden 1, South Korea 0									
Saturday, June 23									
Mexico 2, South Korea 1									
Germany 2, Sweden 1									

Denmark, France advance

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

MOSCOW — A game neither France nor Denmark needed to win produced the World Cup's first 0-0 draw amid boos and whistles from fans on Tuesday.

A slow-paced game — officially No. 37 in Russia — was out of step with a vibrant tournament and ensured already-qualified France won Group C and Denmark advanced as runner-up. Both came through unbeaten.

The draw ensured that outcome, though Peru's 2-0 victory over Australia playing at the same time meant the Danes would have advanced to the round of 16 even had they lost to France.

It was the longest a World Cup had gone without a goalless draw since 1954, which had none.

A French team with six starters resting barely tested Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel until substitute Nabil Fekir tried two long-range shots.

Much of a 78,011 crowd in Luzhniki Stadium whistled misplaced passes and slow play as the game progressed and Denmark protected its point — likely aware Australia had no chance of winning.

Still, thousands of Denmark fans in a stadium seemed happy enough at the final whistle.

It was a mostly forgettable first major tournament start for France goalkeeper Steve Mandanda, who has been a backup at two World Cups and three European Championships. The 33-year-old made his first and only save in the 54th minute, spilling Christian Eriksen's free-kick before punting on the loose ball.

France's first-choice goalkeeper and captain, Hugo Lloris, was among those rested. Midfielders Paul Pogba and Blaise Matuidi were obvious choices to sit after collecting yellow cards in a 1-0 win over Peru. A second yellow card before the semifinals triggers a one-game ban.

The team lost rhythm inserting



ANTONIO CALANCI/AP

Denmark's Andreas Cornelius, top, fights for the ball with France's Lucas Hernandez during a Group C match Tuesday in Moscow.

a different trio of attacking midfielders to support Antoine Griezman and Olivier Giroud.

Perhaps sensing it was time to make entertainment midway through the first half, fans created a wave that made three laps of the stadium. Russian fans broke into their national chant several times to break the boredom.

Whistles and jeers got louder after a misplaced pass in the 64th by France midfielder Thomas

Lemar. The ball went off the field 10 yards behind teammate Benjamin Mendy's run.

Only in the final 20 minutes, when Fekir and Kylian Mbappe, came off the bench did France show more pace and direct intent. They met a solid Danish defense content with the draw.

Denmark has a tough defense anchored by veteran captain Simon Kjeller, and a high-class goalkeeper in Kasper Schmeichel.

Peru finally scores, ousts Australia

By TALEES AZZONI
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Back at the World Cup for the first time since 1982, Peru isn't leaving Russia empty handed.

The Peruvians failed to score a goal in their opening two matches, but the team finally gave its fans a reason to celebrate when it ended Australia's hopes of advancing to the knockout round with a 2-0 victory on Tuesday.

The Australians had to beat Peru and hope Denmark lost to France in the other Group C match, but neither result occurred. France and Denmark drew 0-0 in Moscow.

Andre Carrillo's 18th-minute goal — a half-volley from inside the area — was Peru's first in a World Cup since its last appearance 36 years ago. Peru hadn't won a World Cup match since defeating Iran in 1978.

Peru captain Paolo Guerrero, who almost missed the tournament because of a doping suspension, scored the other goal in the 50th with a left-footed strike after getting to a loose ball inside the area.

"This triumph is for our people and for Jeffer-

son (Farfan)," Guerrero said of his teammate who missed the match after being hospitalized with a head injury sustained in practice last weekend. "We showed that Peru can play as equal to anyone."

Australia striker Tim Cahill, a 38-year-old veteran who entered the match in the 53rd minute, had a chance to become only the fifth player to score in four World Cups, joining Pele, Uwe Seeler, Miroslav Klose and Cristiano Ronaldo. But he had few chances.

Australia needed the victory to reach the round of 16 for the first time since 2006 but it had a slow start at Fisht Stadium, unable to get near the opposing area. The Peruvians, boosted by a loud crowd that heavily outnumbered the Aussies, took advantage of their chances and gave their team an honorable finish after two opening losses.

The whole squad saluted the boisterous Peruvian fans after the match, spending several moments near their sections in the stands.

Australia's best chance to score came in the 27th minute when Tom Rogic made a run through the Peru defense and had his shot saved by goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Peru almost added its third goal when Edison Flores' shot hit the post following a fast breakthrough.

SPORTS



Denmark advances

Danes move on after scoreless draw with France » **Page 31**



DAVID PHILLIP, ABOVE, AND YONG KIM, PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER, RIGHT/AP, ABOVE, AND TNS, RIGHT

Above: Rockets guard James Harden drives to the basket against the Golden State Warriors during Game 7 of the Western Conference finals on May 28 in Houston. After finishing as runner-up twice, Harden was named the NBA's MVP on Monday. Right: Philadelphia's Ben Simmons, right, hugs Cleveland's LeBron James before their game on Nov. 27. Simmons was named the NBA's top rookie Monday, while James finished as the runner-up in the MVP voting.

NBA

MVP

Houston's Harden wins for first time

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Third time was the charm for James Harden.

The Houston Rockets star was voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player after twice being runner-up, beating out four-time winner LeBron James and Anthony Davis of the Pelicans at the NBA Awards on Monday night.

Harden joined Michael Jordan as the only players to average at least 20 points, eight assists, five rebounds and 1.7 steals in a season.

He led the league in scoring, three-pointers and 50-point games with four while helping the Rockets to an NBA-leading 65 wins.

"The last four years have been like knocking on the door, knocking on the door. Now the moment is finally here," Harden said backstage. "Just every single year you try to come back and be better than you were the year before, and just to be holding that trophy finally, it means a lot."

James didn't attend the show in Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport amid frenzied speculation about his future. He has until Friday to tell the Cavaliers if he will pick up his \$35.6 million option for next season or opt for free agency.

Harden, who is from Los Angeles, led his mother on stage before he accepted the trophy from Commissioner Adam Silver.

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Braves win on Albies' walk-off HR in 11th » MLB, Page 27



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